

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publ

33

Fabulous
Downloads

Halloween

tricks & treats®

213

Frightfully
Fun Ideas

37
Pumpkin
Designs

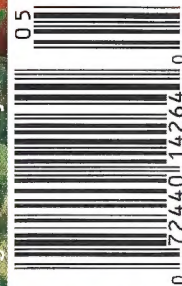
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90

table of

concoctions



12

8

Jeweled Spiders

Bead a spider and let it loose in your home and on your pumpkins.

10

Shake and Rattle

Create vintage-looking decorations with modern-day supplies.

12

Pumpkin Gallery

Browse through these personalities and pick a jack-o'-lantern to be the hit of your neighborhood.

22

Make It Classic

Impress your guests with an adult party that features both glamour and literature.

27

Lively Shadows

Create a scene for your outdoor area with plywood and paint.

34

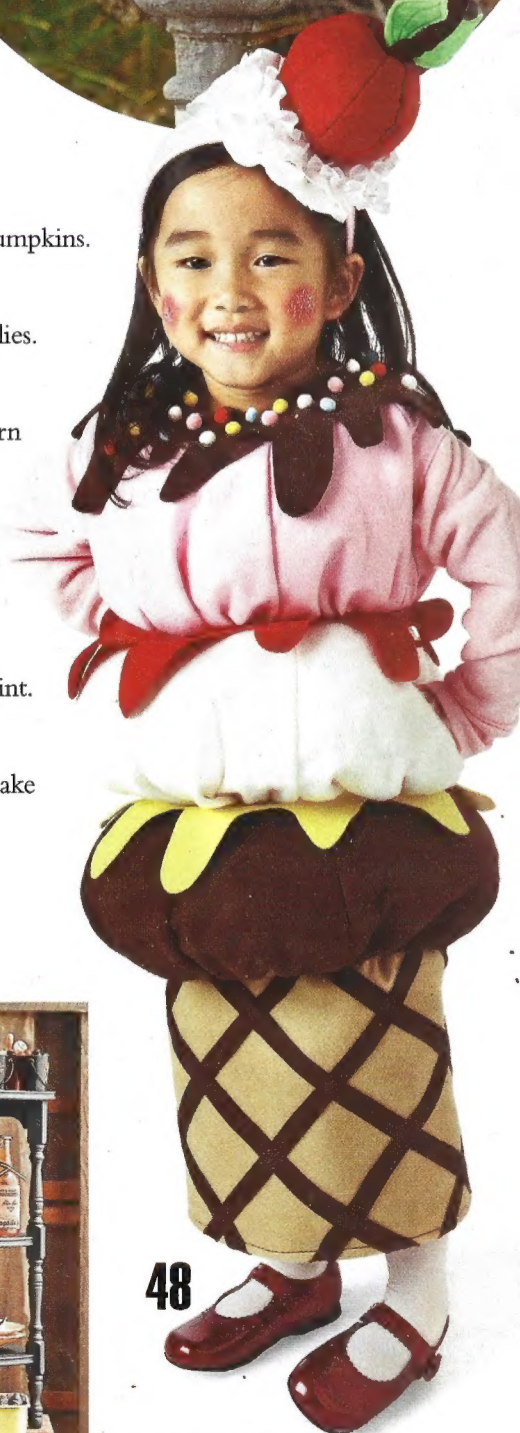
Puppet Party

Make your kids the stars. We give the how-to for you to make the theater, the characters, and even suggest a few jokes!

40

It's a Curious Halloween

A creative shop owner shares her Halloween display ideas.



48



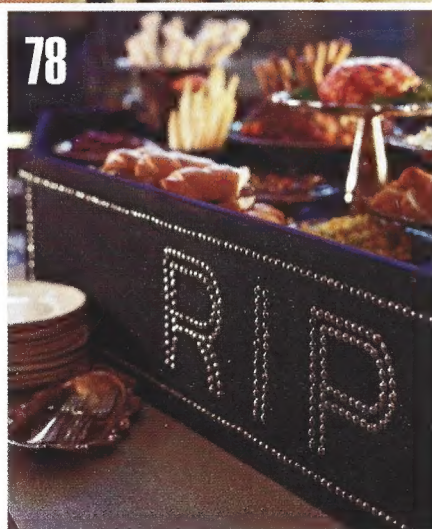
40



110



table of concoctions



- 34** Pumpkin Pets on Parade
Let your kids transform a pumpkin into their favorite animal.
- 44** Clever Costumes
Little clothes from the closet and supplies from your sewing stash are all you need for these cute costumes.
- 48** Spirited Gatherings
The great outdoors is your stage for this neighborhood party.
- 60** The Dead & Breakfast Inn
Create a place to stay for unexpected Halloween guests.
- 64** In the Spirit
Yummy and clever decorations adorn a California cottage.
- 72** Welcome All Spirits
Celebrate an unforgettable night of toasting the dearly departed.
- 78** Monster Madness
No nightmares here, just cute gentle fun for little ones.
- 90** Eerie Edibles
From graveyards to spiders, creepy food never tasted so good!
- 102** Kids Carnival
Pumpkin games and prizes for all, with this Halloween party.
- 110**

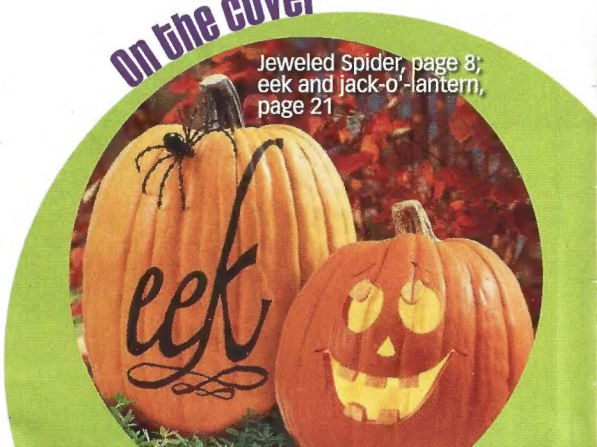
Departments



- 4** From the Editor
- 116** Carving Basics
- 119** Resources

On the cover

Jeweled Spider, page 8;
eek and jack-o'-lantern,
page 21



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from the editor

Projects, parties, costumes, and ideas galore!

I practice complete denial every year: that summer will go on forever and winter will never arrive. So, thank goodness Halloween falls in between, and we've got this great magazine for ideas! It's the go-to place for adults' and kids' parties, outdoor decorating, funky food, and more. If you're like me and waiting for the kids to go back to school before you even think about Halloween, worry no more. To make things easier, we've got tons of downloads for invitations, patterns, projects, and recipes (see the list at right). You'll feel just like Samantha on "Betwitched"—twitch your nose and it'll be done! Once you have your party decorations or costumes in place, send us a photo.

It'll be frighteningly fun

to see what
you've done!

Happy Halloween!

Ann Beevins
EDITOR

Delight your inner goblin with a bouquet from FTD! Designed exclusively for Better Homes and Gardens® Halloween Tricks and Treats®, it's sure to add to the fun and festivities of your Halloween celebration. Available for \$59.99; ftd.com/bhgonline.



Check out these stories
for all the downloads
waiting for you!



**LIVELY
SHADOWS**
pages 27-33



PUPPET PARTY
pages 34-39



**THE DEAD &
BREAKFAST INN**
pages 64-71



**WELCOME, ALL
SPIRITS**
pages 78-89



**MONSTER
MADNESS**
pages 90-101



**HALLOWEEN
KIDS' CARNIVAL**
pages 110-115

boo!

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Halloween

tricks & treats

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jeweled spiders

To spin a web of fear and fun, tuck arachnid surprises among your party decorations.

DESIGNED BY JENIFER SMITH PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARTY BALDWIN

MATERIALS

Note: Materials for the smaller spider are in parentheses.

Needle-nose pliers

3½ inches (3 inches) of 16-gauge crafts wire: black

20-mm (12-mm) round faceted bead: black

Four 8-inch (6-inch) lengths of 26-gauge crafts wire: black

9-mm (6-mm) round faceted bead: black

Wire cutters

Fifty-six (forty) ¼-inch glass bugle beads: black

Fifty-six (forty) 3-mm round faceted beads: black

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare the body wire

Using the needle-nose pliers, wrap one end of the 16-gauge crafts wire into a tiny circle. Continue wrapping the wire around the circle three more times, creating a flat ⅜-inch (¼-inch) coiled circle. Bend the wire tail across the center of the coiled circle, pressing it flat against the circle.

Using the pliers, bend the tail wire so the wire is perpendicular to the center of the circle (it will resemble a tack). Thread the body bead onto the body wire and set aside.

Prepare the leg wires

Hold together the four 8-inch (6-inch) lengths of the crafts wire with the ends aligned; twist the

lengths together three times in the center. Wrap the twisted area of the wire three times around the body wire in front of the body bead.

Add the head

Thread the head bead onto the body wire. Bend down the excess body wire at the front of the head bead so the wire is perpendicular to the beaded assembly. Use the tip of the pliers to make a small coil in the wire directly in front of the head bead. Using wire cutters, trim the excess.

Bead the legs

Separate the leg wires so there are four wires on each side of the body. Thread one leg wire with a bugle bead, then a ⅛-inch bead. Continue threading beads in this order, until you have seven (five) bugle bead ⅛-inch bead groupings on the wire.

Using the pliers, grasp the wire directly in front of the last leg bead. Pull up on the wire with one hand and push down on the beads with the pliers until the beads fit snugly against the body. Wrap a leg wire once around the pliers to form a tiny circle at the end of the leg, leaving a short tail of wire. Holding the circle with the pliers, wrap the tail of the wire two or three times around the leg wire between the circle and the last bead. Trim the excess. Repeat for all legs.

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pumpkins (on
the cheap!).

frightfully **FUN**

Shake and Rattle

Craft noisemakers easily to complement your vintage Halloween display.

MATERIALS

Papier-mâché balls
Acrylic paints: orange, black red, green, blue, white
Artist's paintbrushes
Fine-grit sandpaper
Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
Small dried beans
Twigs
Black construction paper
Wire-edged ribbon
Daisy-shape embellishments
Black buttons

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint each papier-mâché ball orange or black. Let dry; referring to the photo, paint the facial features. Apply the paint with a heavy coat for coverage. Let the paint dry thoroughly, and then lightly sand to give the appearance of age. Wipe off the sanding dust.

Create an opening in each base with a knife, and push a few beans through the holes. Insert the twigs and secure with hot glue. For the cat ears, cut paper triangle shapes and fold one edge. Glue the folded edges to the ball. Tie a ribbon bow around each twig. Embellish the twigs with daisy shapes and buttons, adhered with hot glue.

DESIGNED BY MATTHEW MEAD
PHOTOGRAPHED BY REED DAVIS



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Wings of Fright

With a peck of the head and a pick at the body, the crows perched on and around this straw-filled fellow look eerily realistic. Pose the artificial birds and wire them down to keep your display intact through autumn's often unpredictable weather.

Glowing Gourds

Turn a collection of squatty gourds into a goofy troupe of grinning jack-o'-lanterns for your doorstep, opposite. Don't worry about your carving skills here—their crooked smiles and mesmerizing eyes are all about the charm of imperfection.

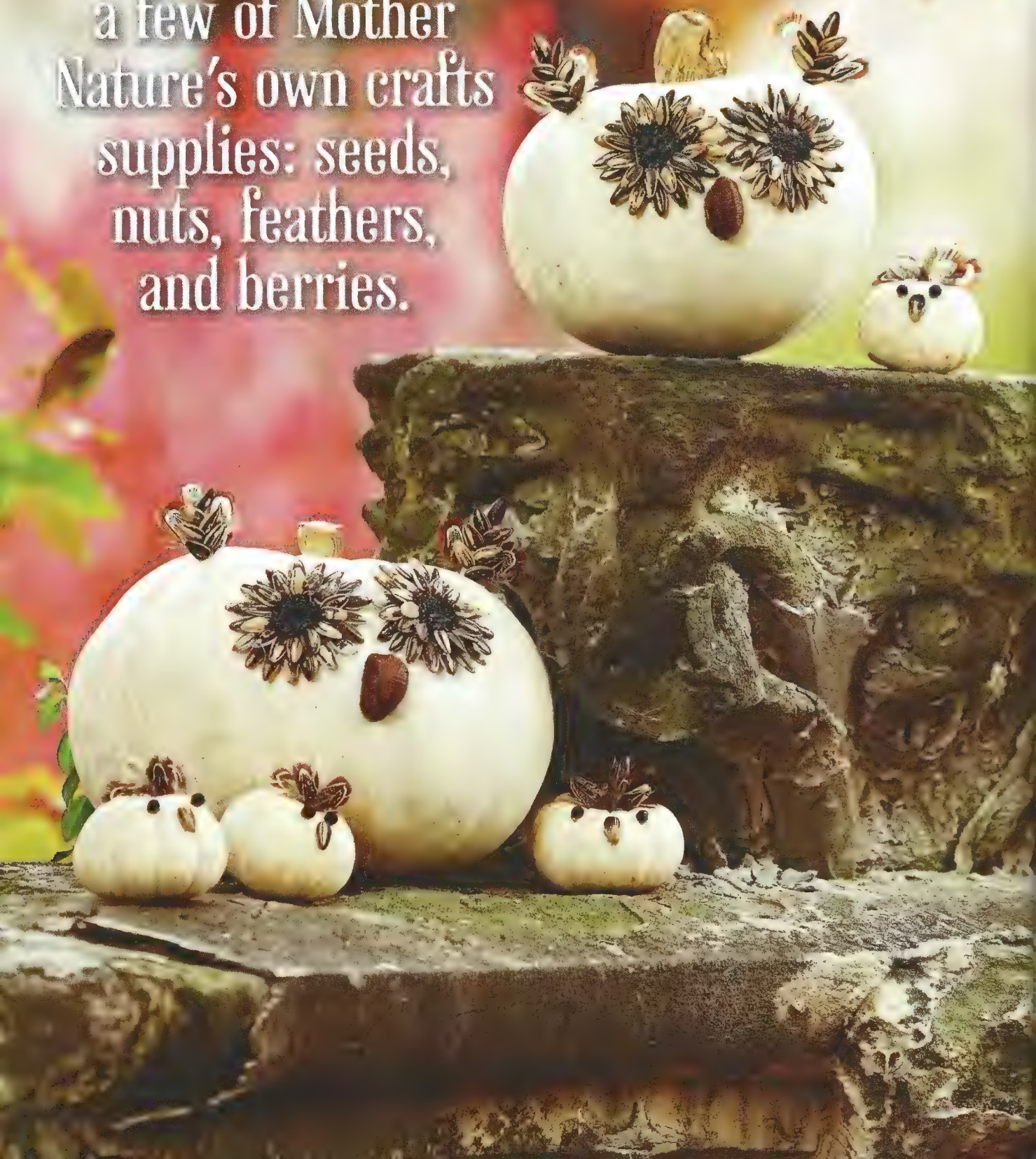


pumpkin gallery

Liven up your Halloween scene with these cleverly carved, painted, and embellished pumpkins. Check out the carving tips, patterns, and instructions that follow.

WRITTEN BY HEIDI PALKOVIC

Take an autumn
hike and gather
a few of Mother
Nature's own crafts
supplies: seeds,
nuts, feathers,
and berries.





What a Hoot

"Whooooooo" knew pumpkins could have so much personality without any carving? With seeds for their flowerlike eyes, feathers for their pointy ears, and nuts for their beaks, these owls, opposite, are a natural favorite. Complete the pack with mini white gourd owls decorated with berries and tufts of feathers.

Bird Brain

So much for deep thoughts—this jack-o'-lantern, above, has become the victim of birds looking for their next brain to pick. To get the look, place the lid slightly askew and perch the predators on and around the pumpkin. Then, enjoy the fun as passersby discover the zaniness.





Rough and Tough

Are this guy's bumps and bruises the result of pumpkin roughhousing? No, they're just an ingenious way to take advantage of not-so-perfect pumpkins. Choose an unripe or dirty pumpkin, then add cockscomb contusions, bulging gourd eyes, and crooked candy corn teeth for a head-reeling effect, left.

Letter-Perfect

If your style is more sophisticated than silly, a monogram may be just the thing to personalize your pumpkins, opposite. Copy our designs, or use your computer to choose a font and print the letter you want. Then enlarge it as desired, cut it out, and use it as a pattern for cutting or gouging out the design.

Use Your Head

No bones about it, this smiling skull, right, has personality. He gets his spirited attitude from a spray-painted gourd detailed with painted facial features, metal washer eyes, and a mini top hat. A seasonal candle stand serves as his skeletal frame.





Wings of Fright

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Transfer the pattern onto the pumpkin. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings. Cut a hole in the bottom of the pumpkin.

Stuff a shirt and overalls with straw to make a scarecrow body. Cut a PVC pipe long enough to fit through the pumpkin and body. Slide the pumpkin onto the pipe through the hole in the bottom of the pumpkin. For extra security, wire the pipe to the back of a bench or chair where the scarecrow will be seated.

Wire the artificial birds to the scarecrow, pumpkin, and bench. Pose the birds as desired.

DESIGNED BY LORI HELLANDER AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE



Glowing Gourds

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Transfer the patterns onto dark green or gray gourds. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings. For a transparent effect, use a grout to cut gourds, nose, and swirl eyes, going just deep enough to reveal the pumpkins' inner rinds.

PROP STYLING BY LYNDY WHITE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALEXANDRA GRABLEWSKI





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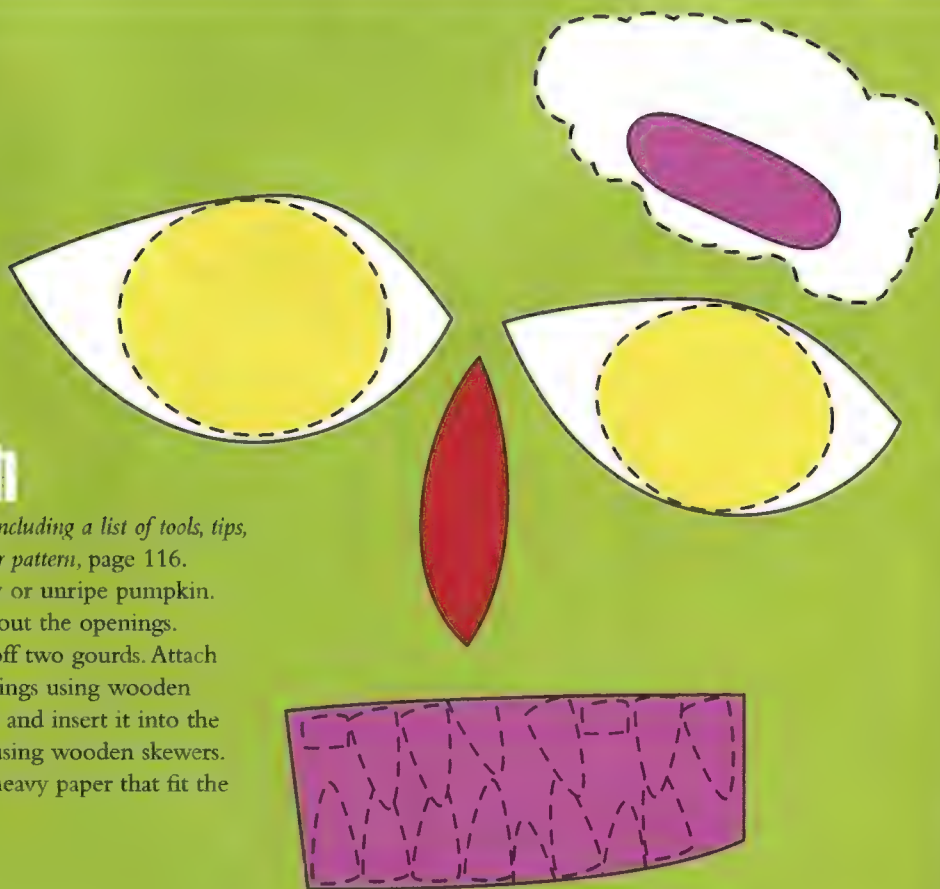
bird brain

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Transfer the pattern onto the pumpkin. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings. Cut the lid with a zigzag edge.

Wind wire around the feet of the artificial birds. Position the birds as desired, and poke the wire ends into the pumpkin to secure the birds.

DESIGNED BY LORI HELLANDER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE



Rough and Tough

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Transfer the patterns onto a dirty or unripe pumpkin. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings.

Use a knife to slice the bottom off two gourds. Attach the gourd bottoms to the eye openings using wooden skewers. Cut a piece of cockscomb, and insert it into the head opening above the right eye using wooden skewers. Hot-glue candy corn to pieces of heavy paper that fit the opening, and glue to the mouth.

DESIGNED BY LORI HELLANDER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE



Letter-Perfect

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Select a font you like from your computer. Enlarge the letter to fit your pumpkin and print it out.

Transfer the letter to the pumpkin. Using a knife or carving tools, cut out the openings.

PROP STYLING BY LYNDY WHITE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALEXANDRA GRABLEWSKI



on the cover

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Transfer the patterns onto the pumpkins and cut out the openings with a knife for the jack-o'-lantern face.

Tip: Our pumpkin was made by downloading pumpkin features from bhg.com/pumpkinstencil. Visit the site to design your own creation!

Paint the script design with black acrylic paint and an artist's brush that best fits the area. Let the paint dry thoroughly. Spray with varnish to seal the paint.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARTY BALDWIN



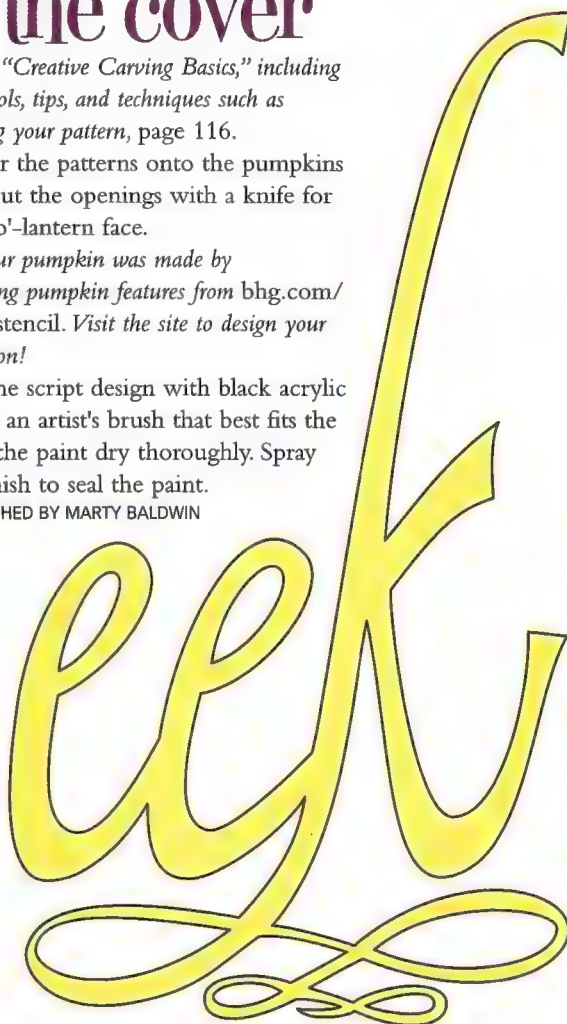
Use Your Head

Note: See "Creative Carving Basics," including a list of tools, tips, and techniques such as transferring your pattern, page 116.

Spray-paint a butternut squash white. Transfer the pattern onto the painted squash. Using a small paintbrush, paint the cranial fissures, the nose, and the smile with black crafts paint. Cut ovals from black felt for the eyes and hot-glue to the squash as shown. Hot-glue 1-inch-diameter metal washers to the felt ovals for the pupils. Glue a purchased miniature top hat to the top of the squash.

DESIGNED BY LORI HELLANDER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE





decorate the set

Perched on the chandelier, a raven looms over the dinner party. Black-bound tomes from secondhand bookstores are stacked on the dining table where they become varied-height pedestals for pumpkins and vases of dried flowers.

make it classic

This is your year—host an adults' Halloween dinner party! (Why let the kids have all the fun?) Dark fiction inspires a wealth of scary yet sophisticated ideas.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG SCHEIDEMANN



introduce the characters

At the dinner table, *above*, white Baby Boo pumpkins and dried grapevines secure hand-cut place cards lettered with press-ons found at a crafts store. (Or draw your own freehand with a black marker.)

turn the page

We made easy place mats, *left*, by taping together pages from books by Edgar Allan Poe. Layer black dessert plates (paper plates work, too) and napkins on top of your own dinnerware. A pressed leaf, topped with a personal take-home gift, adds a touch of fall color.



As master of the macabre—Edgar Allan Poe makes a natural muse

His vast collection of imaginative poems and stories set us on a creative path to a frightfully fun experience. We like Poe's words and imagery, but any classic horror film, character, or novel can inspire a sophisticated Halloween party theme. Before dinner, let guests mingle around a wickedly indulgent wine and cheese spread, *above*, including black fruits, crackers,

and breads. Write lines from your favorite poem on chalkboard or sturdy black poster board. Play classical music in the background. (Try a Web search for "somber music." Our pick: Bach's "Come Sweet Death.") Squat, stemless Cinderella pumpkins work great as pedestals for cheese trays. We chalked our own black labels for cheeses and wine



bottles. Let tarnished silver pieces add to the grim ambience; use them as unique perches for small pumpkins. Spray-paint branches white or black and anchor in tall cylindrical vases for eerie accents. Finally, coat an old mirror with torn book pages and layers of decoupage medium to reflect ghostly images of your guests.

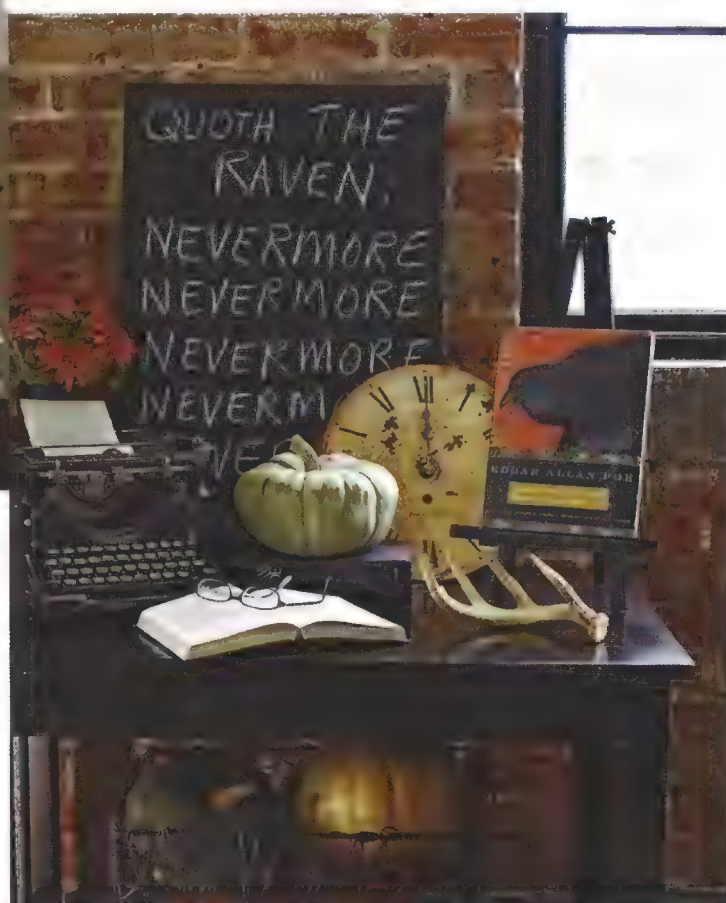


the plot sweetens

After dinner, move the storytelling away from the table with a tantalizing sideboard of dark and decadent sweets, *left*. We used a tiered server (stacked cake plates or plates on pumpkins would work as well) to offer black jelly beans, votive cups filled with licorice sticks, and wrapped dark chocolates. Dried leaves add easy and cost-free seasonal color.

set the stage

Classic lines from Poe's "The Raven" greet guests at the door with hints of what's to come, *below*. Books feature the celebrated author's tales of terror, while a vintage typewriter puts an exclamation point on the literary theme.



Get inspired



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As you set out for trick-or-treating at sundown, watch for ghosts and goblins that lurk around every corner.

LIVELY SHADOWS

DESIGNED BY SCOTT SMITH WRITTEN BY BEVERLY RIVERS PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLAINE MOATS AND JAY



Witch Way?

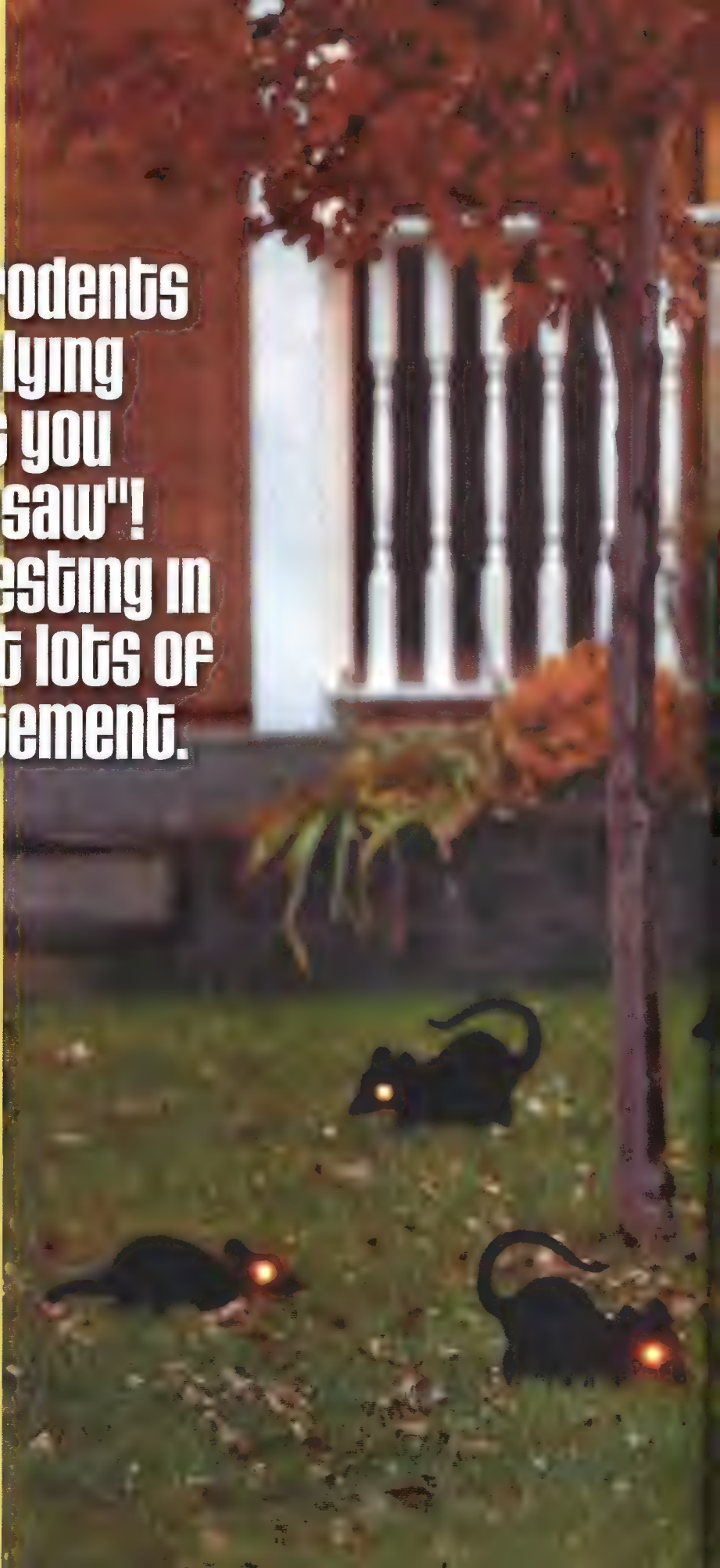
Line your driveway and sidewalks with spooktacular figures cut from plywood and painted black. (Find out how on page 32.) For even a ghost of a chance at getting any sweet treats with all of these spooks around, make your own colorful goody bucket. All you need is a metal paint can, peel-and-stick crafts foam, and scissors.

**Rats! These rodents
are multiplying
as fast as you
can say "jigsaw"!
No peaceful resting in
this yard—just lots of
fun and excitement.**

Mice and Men

With the help of plywood and paint, your yard will be crawling with creepy cutouts. Glow-in-the-dark paint and LED lights bring them to life after dark. Keeping this bony gent upright is as easy as making a quick cauldron of spider stew. Once you attach a piece of PVC pipe to his back, just push it into the ground and he won't be going anywhere!

(For how-to, see page 32.)







Get easy-to-print silhouettes to spook up your space at BHG.com/silhouettes.

'Fraidy Cats

Greet little goblins and their mummies and daddies with eerie smiles and haunting eyes. These jack-o'-lanterns light up the pathway to the door with their yellow cellophane features, which are enhanced by a hidden spotlight. Keep them company with black cat cutouts—eyes lit and ready to pounce.



Lamppost Illusion

Strange things occur at dusk when Halloween nears. Rats and cats infest the yard, and lampposts show up where none were before. Cut your own post from plywood, give it a coat of exterior paint, and attach a garden-variety candle lantern with a large hook. The little ghouls and boys will thank you for the extra light.



Lively Shadows

MATERIALS

1" plywood
Jigsaw
Drill
Gray or black exterior primer
Black flat exterior paint
Glow-in-the-dark paint
LED battery-operated candle lights
Silver or black duct tape
Yellow cellophane
PVC pipe
Metal pipe straps with screws
6"-long screws
Battery-operated pillar candle



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

INSTRUCTIONS

Refer to our pattern for guidance, and draw the shapes onto 1" plywood to your desired size. Using a jigsaw, cut out the shapes.

For cat and rat eyes, drill holes large enough to accommodate the LED bulb.

For features on the ghost, skeleton, and jack-o'-lanterns, create an opening by drilling a large hole in each space. Then insert the blade of your jigsaw and cut out the shape.

Prime all cutouts with primer and let it dry. Paint all cutouts with black paint. Let dry thoroughly.

Referring to the pattern for guidance, draw the skeleton features

with a pencil. With a small brush, apply glow-in-the-dark paint to the penciled lines. Let the paint dry.

For the light in the eyes, remove and discard the candle tip from the bulb using needle-nose pliers. Insert the bulb into the eyehole, and then tape over the back of the candlelight to secure. (See Figures 1 and 2, *above*.)

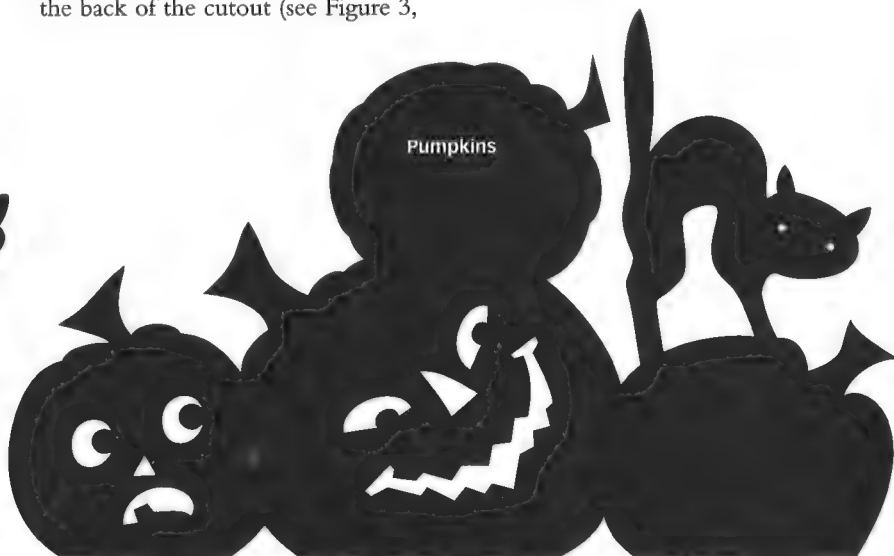
To light the jack-o'-lantern eyes, cover the backs of the cutout features with yellow cellophane. Position an outdoor spotlight behind the cutout.

To secure larger pieces into the ground, attach a piece of PVC pipe to the back of the cutout (see Figure 3,

above), allowing at least 12" to extend below the bottom of the shape. Use pipe straps and screws to secure the pipe to the cutout. Paint the pipe and strap black.

To secure the rats and cats into the ground, screw the first 1½" of 6" long screws into the bottoms of the feet; push the screws into the ground.

For the light on the lamppost, securely attach a garden lantern with a hook, then place a battery-operated pillar candle inside.





Skeleton



Rats



Witch



Ghost



Lamppost

Abacadabra! Give your kids
another Halloween opportunity
to pretend they're someone else.
All you need is a painted appliance box
and some easy-to-craft puppets.
Then let the show begin!





Add glitter-glue decorations and plastic spiders to your cardboard theater to turn it into a whimsical haunted house. Then hang a curtain, and bring on your crafts-foam puppet characters!

puppet party

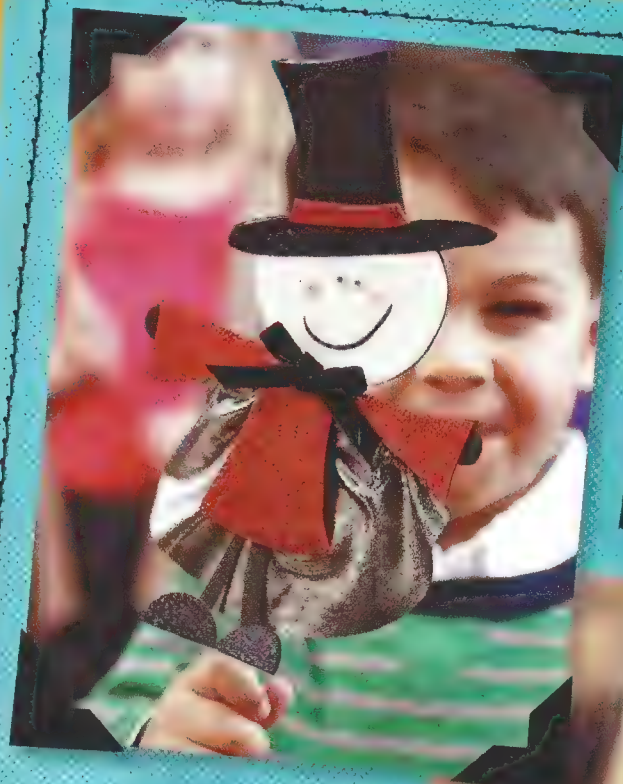
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAY WILDE
THEATER DESIGNED BY MONIKA BRINT



Nab every puppet pattern
(and the puppet theater design)
at BHG.com/puppet-party.



Party guests:
Grant, Nathan, Claire, Raegan,
Emma, and Henry
Starring as:
Monte the Mummy, Wendy the Witch,
and Maurice the Magician



Playbill Favorites

What do you call a witch who lives
at the beach? A sand-witch!

Why was the mummy so uptight?

He was all wound up!

What did the magician say to the
fisherman? Pick a cod, any cod!





puppet theater

MATERIALS

Large cardboard box
Crafts knife
Acrylic paints: purple and black
Paintbrushes
Glitter glue: turquoise, purple, lime green
Plastic spiders
Tinsel covered metal spiderweb
Crafts glue
Fabric scrap for curtain
½"-diameter wooden dowel

INSTRUCTIONS

Measure the cardboard box to divide it into three panels. The side panels need to be long enough to keep the theater upright. *Note: Our center panel measures 33x47" and the side panels 20x31".* Mark the fold lines and score on one side with a crafts knife. Paint all cardboard sides and edges black. Let dry, and apply a second coat if desired.

Referring to the photograph on pages 34-35 and the illustration below, draw the outline shapes onto the center cardboard panel with a pencil. Cut out the shape with scissors or a crafts knife.

Paint the house purple; let dry thoroughly. Apply a second coat if needed; let dry. Draw the remaining patterns onto the house. Paint the details black; let dry.

Squeezing directly from the bottle, apply the glitter glues. Apply the glitter in one area, and working from top to bottom, change the color of glitter that you're applying as you work across

the cardboard. Let the glitter glue dry overnight.

Adhere the spiders and spiderweb with crafts glue. Let the glue dry.

With scissors or a crafts knife, cut out the stage opening. Score and fold back the opening flap. Fold back each side panel along the scored lines. Touch up any scored edges with black paint.

Cut the curtain fabric to size of the opening, doubling the width to allow for gathers and adding an inch on the height for the dowel channel. To make the channel, fold over the fabric 1 inch and glue the edges. Let the glue dry. Slip the fabric onto the dowel and gather it.

Hold the curtain in place, and mark the dowel end positions on the cardboard flaps with a pencil. Set the curtain aside. Cut a circular opening on each marked spot. Insert the dowel ends into the holes.



Our theater is 47" x 73"

puppets

MATERIALS

Crafts foam: black, white, and yellow
 Glitter crafts foam: red, orange, pink, purple
 Fine-tip markers: black and white
 Tracing paper
 Crafts-foam glue
 Makeup blush; cotton swab
 Googly eyes: 3 mm and 8 mm
 Three black brads
 Narrow gauze
 Silver metallic fabric
 1/2"-wide Black velvet ribbon
 Large wooden spoons

INSTRUCTIONS

For the puppets: Trace the patterns onto tracing paper and cut out. Turn the patterns over and place them onto the crafts foam. Trace around the shapes using a marker. Cut out the crafts foam along the traced lines.

Monte the Mummy: Cut the mummy body from the black foam and his clothing from the purple glitter foam. Glue the clothes to the body. Glue the eyes in place. Wrap the shape with gauze, gluing the ends on the back.

Wendy the Witch: Cut the witch shape from the black foam. Cut out the remaining pieces, and glue them to the witch. Glue on her eyes, draw her mouth using a marker, and apply her blush with a cotton swab. Push the brads through as buttons and bend the prongs flat on the back.

Maurice the Magician: Cut the magician shape from the black foam. Cut out the remaining pieces, and glue them to the magician. Glue on his eyes, draw his mouth using a marker, and apply his blush with a cotton swab. Tie the ribbon in a bow, and glue it in place. Squeeze a line of glue on the backs of his arms. Finger-gather the straight edge of the cape and press in place onto the glue.

For each puppet: Apply a line of glue along the edges of the spoon, excluding the handle. Press a puppet onto a spoon. Let the glue dry.

PS: The skeleton couldn't come to the party because he didn't have "any body" to come with!





Shopkeeper Debbie Dusenberry
composes dramatic dioramas
in keeping with her store's
eclectic aesthetic and her love
for holiday displays.

it's a curious halloween

WRITTEN BY ANN WILSON PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB GREENSPAN



baby buggy boneyard

An antique pram filled with mini tombstones and spectral statues stands as a creepy exhibit and product display. Stuffed rat figures round out the hair-raising homage.



mass for impact

Hitchcockian swarms of velvet crows perch on farm ladders and a painted tree silhouette that Debbie uses as a backdrop for her ever-changing holiday displays.



bring past patinas into play

Debbie says there's no better time than Halloween to showcase the ripped and weathered. An iron-on transfer brings an Edwardian chair into the avian scheme, while a rusty candelabra on a beat-up box lends a somewhat sinister *Phantom of the Opera* effect.



hand stands

Piles of yellowed paperbacks prop up ceramic witches' hands, which grasp sepia portrait costumed with eye masks. Debbie downloaded the images and printed them onto adhesive labels.

Inspiration-seeking enthusiasts

of Halloween flock to the Curious Sofa in Prairie Village, Kansas, to revel in the stylishly quirky displays that Debbie Dusenberry arranges amid the goods stocked in her 3,700-square-foot home-decor boutique.

"Visitors like that we give Halloween a grown-up spin, and since our merchandise and art exhibits change season to season, each year's display is different than the one before," Debbie says.

The elements may change, but Debbie's unerring eye and "twisted way of thinking" ensure that each display bewitches. Though each still life boasts individual character, harmony reigns because they all share a suitably stark palette and an age-old outlook.

"I always start by choosing my colors, usually a black-and-white or tea-stained scheme, to set the tone," Debbie says. "Then I build a display around an antique object, giving it a twist as I go. There's always something creepy, gothic, or witch-inspired . . . something different in each area of the store. No matter what we come up with, we always have fun with Halloween!"

witch down

Bendable mannequin legs dressed in striped hose and buckled shoes suggest that a wayward witch landed headfirst in a moss-filled urn. The amusing arrangement and a black-feather door wreath preview enchantments waiting inside.



dashing chap

Crown a pipe-smoking ceramic skull with a too-cool cap and balance the uncanny cranium on a scarf-swathed dress form to create a man of mystery.



irony abounds

This dire warning, an original hand-lettered art print by Tag Team Tompkins, evokes smiles when set near a pile of matches and a skeleton-bedecked votive.



set a scary stage

Trash-picked chandeliers wrapped in shredded cheesecloth strips introduce wraithlike forms above a bed dressed with a webbed pillow. Oversize arachnids scurry throughout the store.

“Whimsy, fun, and unorthodox describe our displays. Some are cute, some are creepy, but there’s always something unexpected for everyone to enjoy.”

quote poe

Artist Wendy Addison crafted this glittery raven bearing a bleak missive in its beak. Debbie wired the bird to a branch and displayed it in a vintage birdcage.



PUMPKIN PETS on parade

Create a lineup of whimsical pumpkin critters with super simple materials and easy assembly that will have you looking at seasonal produce in a whole new way.



PRODUCED BY MATTHEW MEAD WRITTEN BY DEBRA WITTRUP
PHOTOGRAPHED BY REED DAVIS



Here, Kitty, Kitty

Set a medium-size pumpkin atop a larger pumpkin and you have the beginning of a fabulous feline, *opposite*. Pin or glue paper ears and facial features, referring to our patterns, *page 47*, to the top pumpkin. Push in wire whiskers to bristle on each side of the nose. Add a paper-chain tail and a couple of pumpkin squash paws.

Jeepers Creepers

Want to reveal guests' arachnophobia? Using our patterns, *page 47*, cut paper ovals and circles in ascending sizes for a spider's eyes. Stack and glue the shapes, and pin the eyes to the pumpkin. Glue together a narrow black strip and two freaky white fangs for the mouth. Pin the mouth to the pumpkin. Insert four wires into the pumpkin on each side of the face and bend to create eight creepy-crawly legs, *above left*. Little Miss Muffet doesn't stand a chance!

Pumpkin Pooch

Create a playful pup that never needs feeding, walking, or training. A large elongated pumpkin on its side and a smaller pumpkin standing upright next to it form the canine head and body, *left*. Lay two squash next to the large pumpkin for back legs and two small pumpkin squash in front of the head for paws. Using our patterns, *page 47*, cut and assemble the face and ear shapes; attach with glue. Add a paper-chain tail, and stand back to see if it wags.

With your help, even young children can create their own pumpkin animals.



What a Hoot!

Forget wise—this owl looks downright grumpy! After all, have you ever seen a pumpkin fly? Make this serious sentinel, *left*, with a small round pumpkin atop a larger elongated one. Cut and fold the face shapes and wings according to the patterns, *opposite*. Glue the pieces together, and pin them to the pumpkins. Time for takeoff—or maybe not.

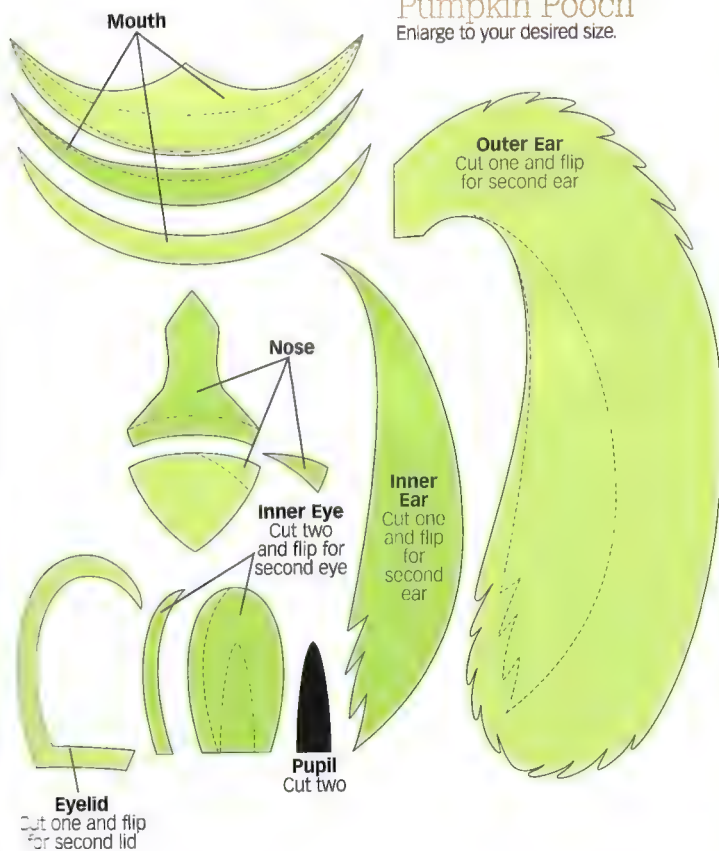
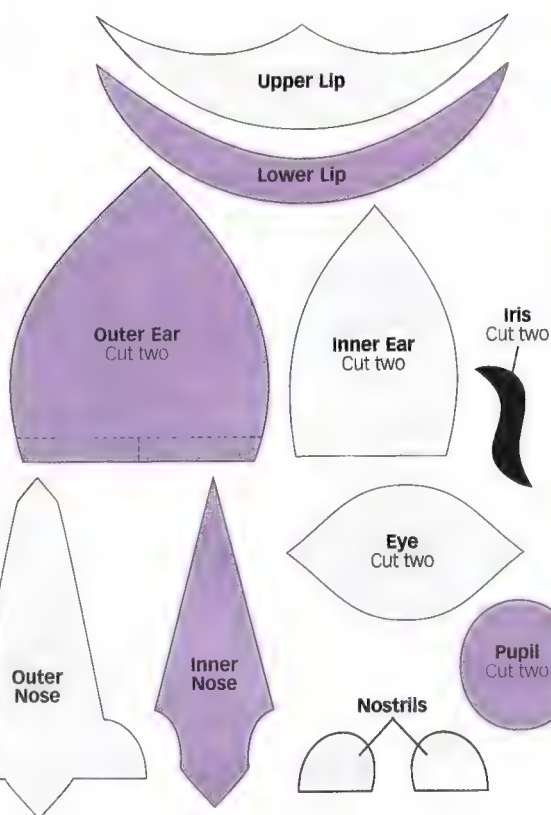
Sneaky Snake

This snake, *below*, looks like one laid-back reptile. But is he just chilling or waiting for a killing? Cover a row of pie pumpkins with groovy shapes made with paper punches. Pin or glue the shapes in random patterns to all but one pumpkin. Cut face shapes according to the patterns, *opposite*, and assemble as seen in the photo. Pin or glue them to the head pumpkin. Now be smart and stay out of striking distance.



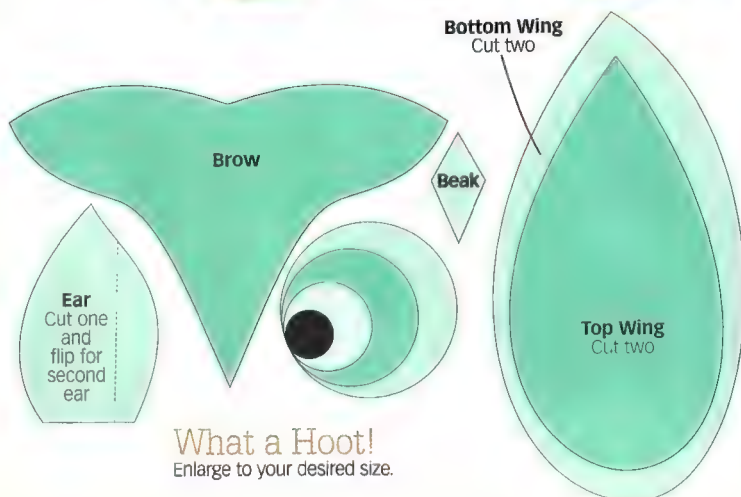
Here, Kitty, Kitty

Enlarge to your desired size.



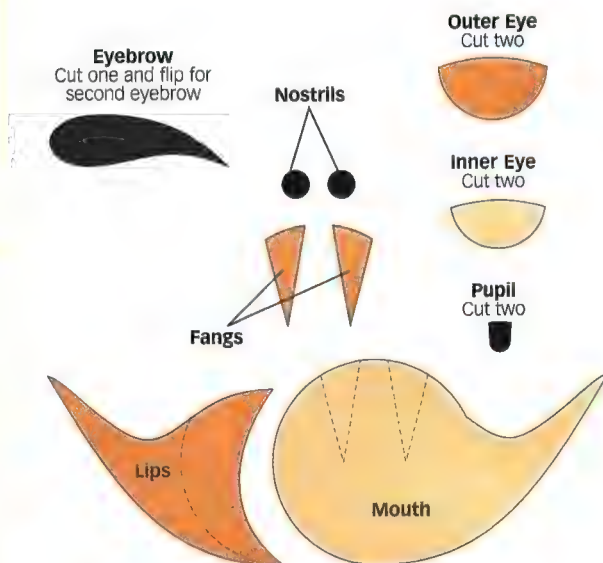
Pumpkin Pooch

Enlarge to your desired size.



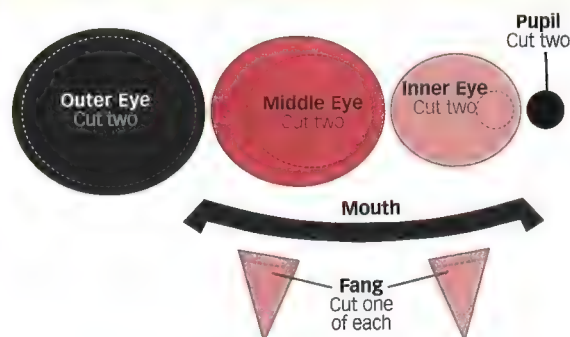
What a Hoot!

Enlarge to your desired size.



Sneaky Snake

Enlarge to your desired size.



Jeepers Creepers

Enlarge to your desired size.



clever costumes

Help your little one transform into a cute-as-can-be creature or a sweet treat, using our easy-to-follow instructions and patterns.

WRITTEN BY HEIDI PALKOVIC





octo-baby

Your little one may not be sure on her feet quite yet, but this sea creature is swimming in cuteness—especially for the baby who has just learned to sit up on her own. Turn kids' tights or knee-high socks into octopus tentacles with the help of stuffing and felt furniture pads for suction cups. You only need to make six arms, though. Baby's legs peek out from among the stuffed ones to complete the octo-arrangement.



mice are nice

Forget shrieks of fright—these cute mice are sure to elicit squeals of delight. Turn a basic gray hoodie into a scurry-ready ensemble with the addition of a soft chenille tummy and perky velveteen ears and tail. Finish off the ensemble with cool indoor sunglasses for “eyes,” and fasten on a whiskered felt nose.

feathered friend

Who's that peeking out of her nest? This freshly hatched baby bird is ready to fledge this Halloween. Feather boas and a purchased twig wreath embellished with artificial leaves and scraps of kraft paper help this costume take flight in no time.



Make your kid the coolest on the block with the fun and easy costume ideas at BHG.com/cutecostumes.



time to chill

This dapper dude is as cool as ice in a black sweat suit turned playful penguin getup. Create the wings, the "tails," and the tummy using felt accents; then top off the costume with a fleece winter hat embellished with felt facial features. Add a fun finishing touch with a big catch of foam-core fish, plastic-foam ice cubes, and a dowel fishing pole.



sweet treat

Want the scoop on this oh-so-tempting cone creation? Create the strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate ice cream layers using felt and our patterns. A headband drizzled in ribbon whipped-cream ruffles and a felt cherry adds the crowning touch.



SEPTEMBER

23-26TH

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mouse

MATERIALS

Gray zip-front hooded kids' sweatshirt
1/2 yard of white or pink minky dot chenille
Adhesive-backed hook-and-loop tape
1 yard of gray velveteen
Polyester fiberfill
3/4 yard of black cord
Felt: pink and white
Black pom-pom
Sunglasses
Fabric glue
Pink ribbon (for girl mouse)

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Three sizes for the tummy pattern are given in the pattern section, opposite. Choose the one closest to your sweatshirt size. Enlarge the patterns as indicated.

Using the tummy patterns, cut the pieces from white or pink dot chenille. Turn all edges under 1/8 inch, and either topstitch or use fabric glue to hold the edges in place. Using a narrow zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, topstitch the outside edges of the tummy pieces to the front of the sweatshirt. Overlap the right front bib piece over the zipper, and topstitch inside the zipper edge. Adhere self-adhesive hook-and-loop tape inside the zipper cover flap.

Using the ear patterns, cut four outer ear pieces from a velveteen and two inner ear pieces from white or pink dot chenille. Topstitch or glue one pink or white inner ear to the center of one gray outer ear piece. With right sides together, sew one sewn outer ear piece and one plain gray piece together, leaving a 1/2-inch opening. Turn right side out through the opening. Repeat to make a second ear. Referring to the photo, *right*, for placement, hand-sew the ears to the top of the sweatshirt hood.



Using the tail pattern, cut the tail from gray velveteen. With right sides together, sew the long edges of the tail together. Turn right side out and stuff with fiberfill. Hand-sew the tail to the lower back of the sweatshirt.

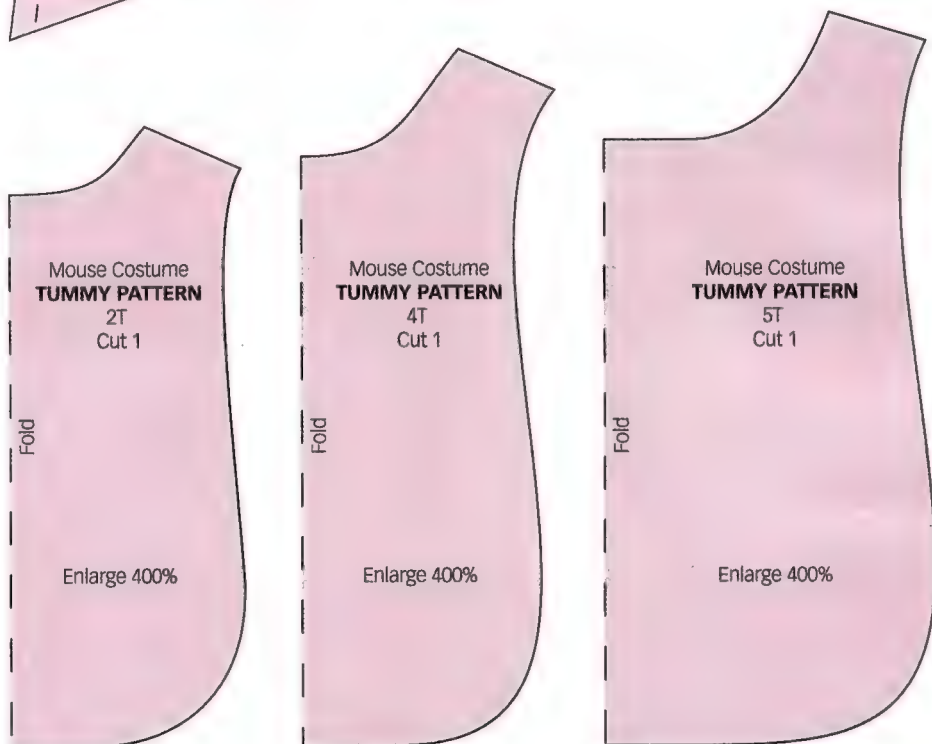
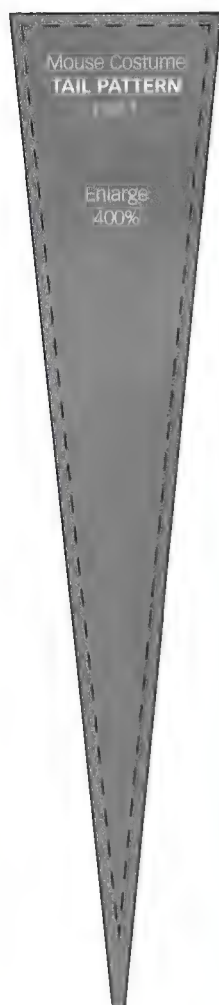
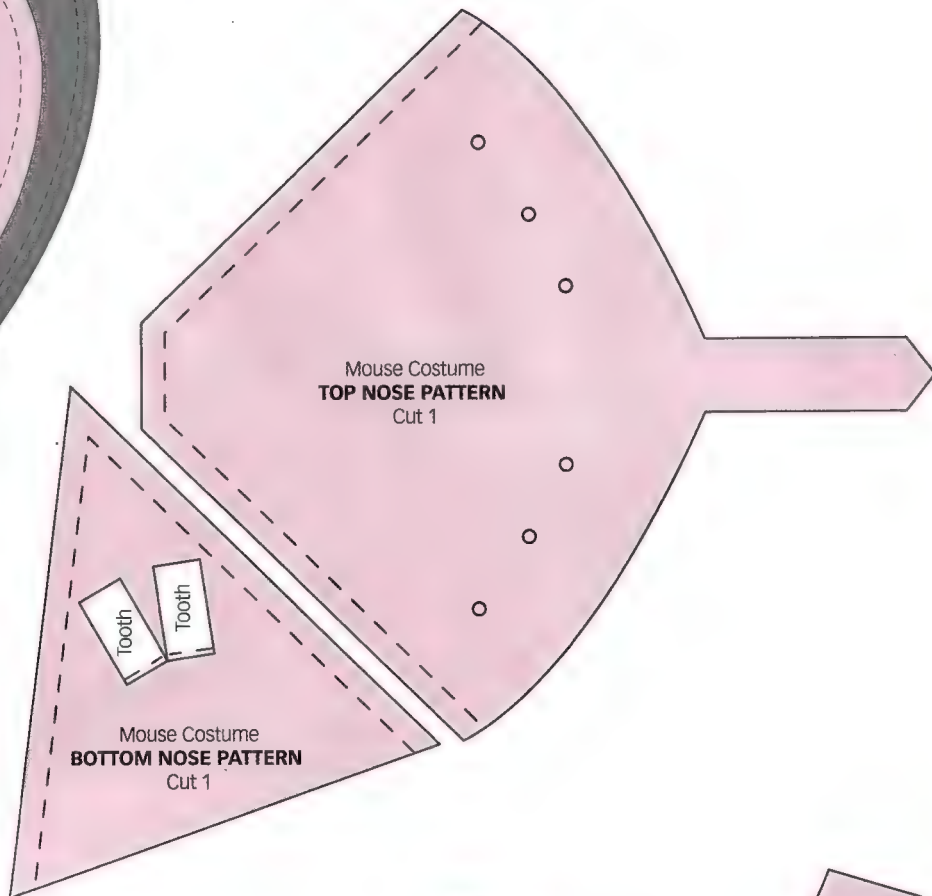
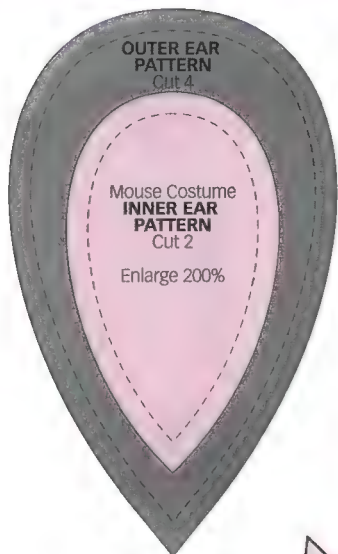
Using the top nose and the bottom nose patterns, cut the pieces from pink felt. Cut the teeth from white felt using the patterns. With right sides facing, sew the nose pieces together to make a cone. Cut six 3 1/2-inch lengths from black cord, knot one end of each piece, then use a needle to thread the pieces through the nose as indicated by the circles on the top nose pattern. Wrap the felt tab around the bridge of the sunglasses, and glue or hand-sew it in place. Glue a pom-pom to the end of the nose.

For the girl mouse, cut a 2 1/2 x 30-inch length from gray velveteen for the ruffle around the hood. Fold the



piece in half lengthwise with right sides facing; use a gathering foot on your sewing machine to create a ruffle. If you don't have a gathering foot, use fabric glue to hold gathers in place. Sew or glue the ruffle to the inside edge of the hood, trimming the excess at the ends if necessary. Tie short lengths of pink ribbon around the ears and the tail.

DESIGNED BY CARRIE NAUMANN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM ALBRIGHT





Octo-Baby

MATERIALS

Three pairs of kids' tights or knee-high socks
Polyester fiberfill
Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
Felt furniture pads
Wide ribbon
Adhesive-backed hook-and-loop tape
Onesie with matching hat

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut the legs off the tights and stuff each leg with polyester fiberfill. Fold the cut edges to the inside, and hot-glue the opening closed. Hot-glue felt furniture pads onto one side of each octopus "arm."

Cut a 24-inch length of ribbon and glue the sealed ends of each octopus arm to the middle of the ribbon, leaving no space between arms, to create a belt. Attach adhesive-backed hook-and-loop tape to the ends of the ribbon belt to use as a closure. Wrap the belt around the child's waist; secure the hook-and-loop tape.

DESIGNED BY CATHERINE RYAN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNY RISHER

Baby Bird

MATERIALS

Light blue long-sleeve onesie with hood
Feather boas: orange and light blue
Fabric glue
Felt: yellow and light blue
Grapevine wreath
Artificial leaves
Kraft paper
Wide ribbon

INSTRUCTIONS

Create the baby bird's tummy by adhering the orange feather boa to the front of the light blue onesie with fabric glue.

Cut a 6" square beak from yellow felt. Fold diagonally and glue the folded edge to the top edge of the hood. Glue

a light blue feather boa around the hood edge without covering the beak. Glue two short light blue feather boa pieces around the ends of the sleeves. Let dry.

Hot-glue artificial leaves and strips of Kraft paper to the wreath. Cut two long lengths from ribbon to create shoulder straps (you'll want to measure the length needed on your child). Tie each ribbon to the wreath, positioning the pieces and adjusting the length of the ribbon to fit over the child's shoulders.

DESIGNED BY CARRIE NAUMANN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM ALBRIGHT

Penguin

MATERIALS

¾ yard of white felt
Scallop-edge scissors
Black kids' sweatshirt
Scraps of black, gray, yellow, and pink felt
Green polka-dot ribbon
Three black buttons
Black kids' fleece winter hat
White foam-core board
Crafts knife
Markers
1-inch thick plastic-foam sheet
White cord and fishing bobber
Dowel

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Enlarge the patterns, opposite, as indicated. Cut out the penguin shirt from white felt using the pattern. Cut six ½×16-inch wide strips from white felt, trimming one long edge with scallop-edge scissors. Cut one 1½×16-inch strip from white felt.

Glue or topstitch the felt shirt piece to the front of the sweatshirt. Lay out the scallop-edge strips and the 1½×16-inch strip on the front of the shirt as shown in the photograph, *page 51*, and glue or topstitch the pieces in place.



Trim the ends of the strips as needed.

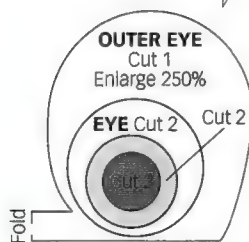
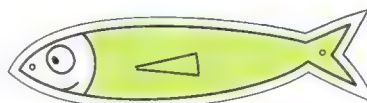
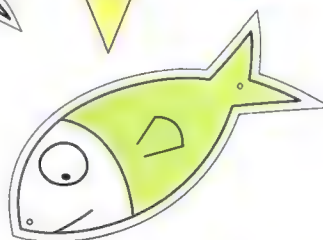
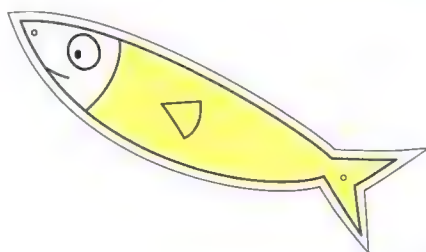
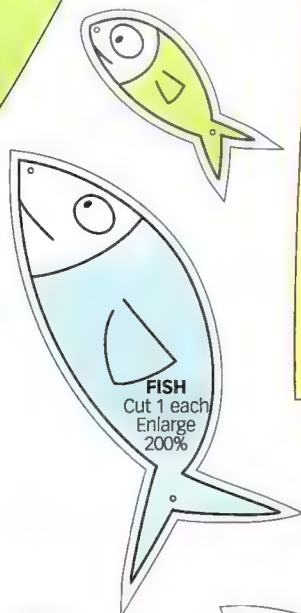
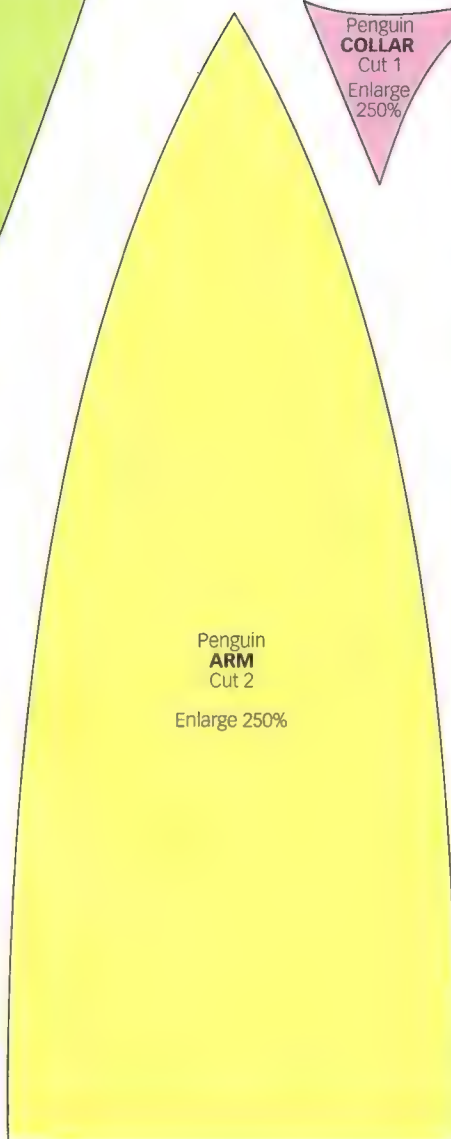
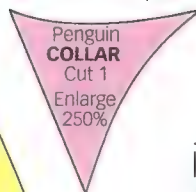
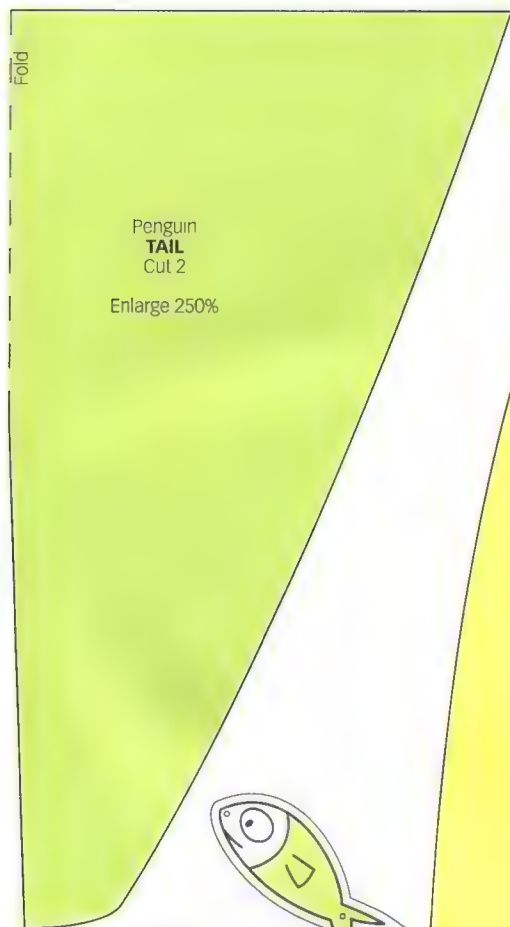
Using the patterns, cut the collar pieces from white felt and the arm and tail pieces from black felt. Glue or sew the collar to the neckline of the sweatshirt, the arm pieces to the shoulder seamline of the sleeves, and the tail pieces to the bottom back of the sweatshirt. Create a bow tie from the ribbon, and glue it just below the neckline. Sew three buttons to the center of the shirt.

For the hat, cut out the eye pieces from white, gray, and black felt as shown on the patterns. Cut out the beak from yellow felt and the cheeks from pink felt. Glue or sew the pieces to the hat as shown in the photograph, *above*, layering the eyes first and then the beak on top of the eyes.

Using the fish patterns as templates, trace the fish onto white foam-core and cut them out with a crafts knife. Transfer the details with black marker. Color the fish with markers.

Cut 1-inch cubes from plastic-foam using a crafts knife. Pierce a small hole through the top and the bottom of the fish and string them together with white cord along with the plastic-foam cubes. String one fish with a plastic fishing bobber onto the cord and tie it to the end of a wooden dowel to make a fishing pole.

DESIGNED BY CARRIE NAUMANN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM ALBRIGHT





Ice Cream Cone

MATERIALS

½ yard each of felt: pink, cream,
brown, tan, red, yellow, green
Pink kids' sweatshirt
Polyester fiberfill
Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
Multicolor pom-poms
Wide kids' headband
Thin cardboard
White satin ribbon
Wire

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Enlarge the patterns, below and opposite, as indicated. Referring to the patterns, cut out the ice cream scoop sections from pink, cream, and brown felt. Use the sleeve hole pattern to cut a hole in two of the pink sections. With right sides facing, sew the same-color sections together to make a funnel-shape tube. (Position the pink sleeve-hole pieces on opposite sides of the sewn tube.) Gather the top and bottom

edges with a long running stitch and pull the thread ends.

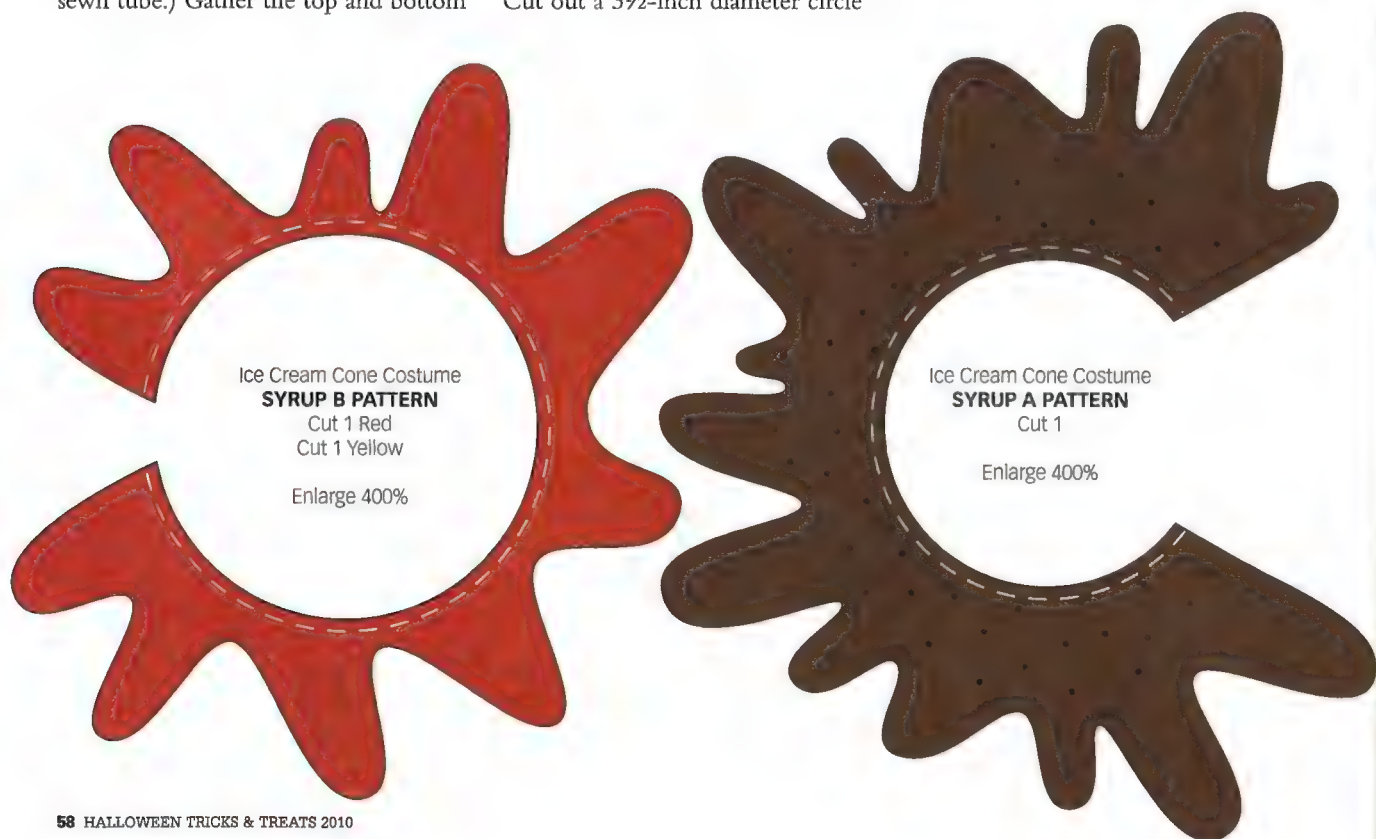
Cut a 14-inch square from tan felt. Cut as many 1¾-inch wide strips from brown felt as needed to create a crisscross pattern across the tan felt square. Glue or topstitch the strips in place. With right sides facing, sew the sides of the tan felt together; turn right side out. Hand-sew the tan felt square to the bottom gathers of the bottom ice cream scoop.

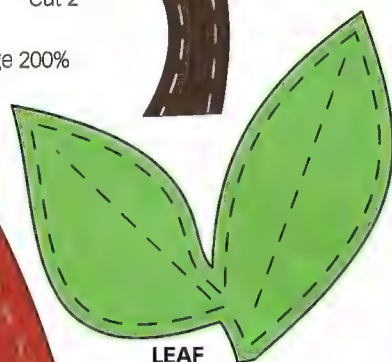
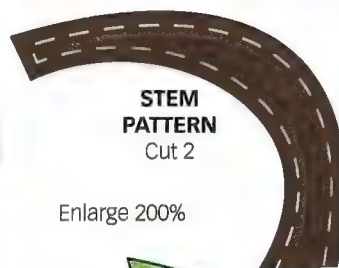
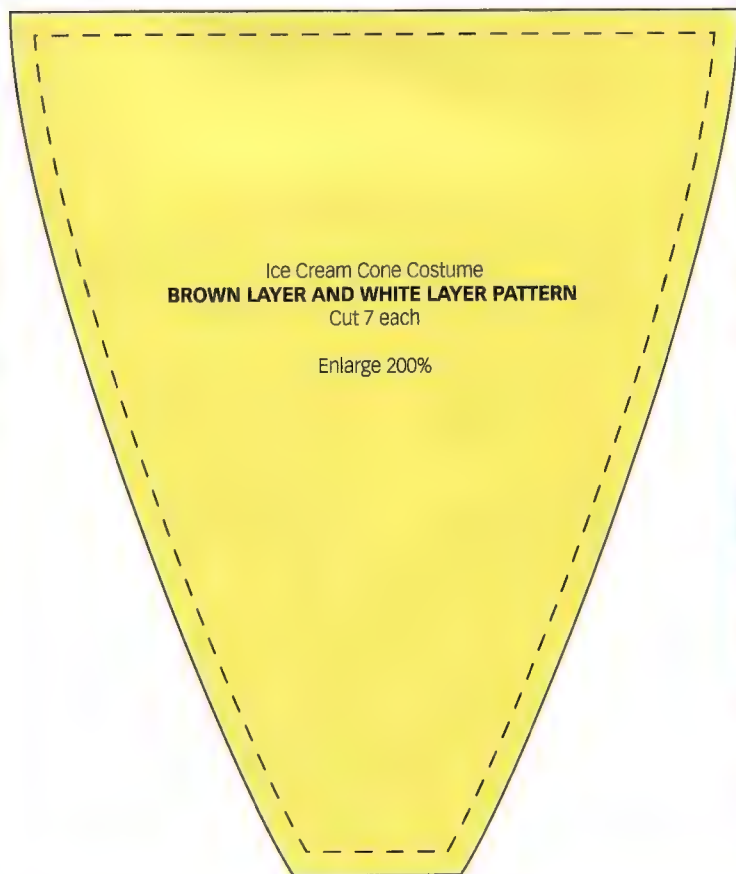
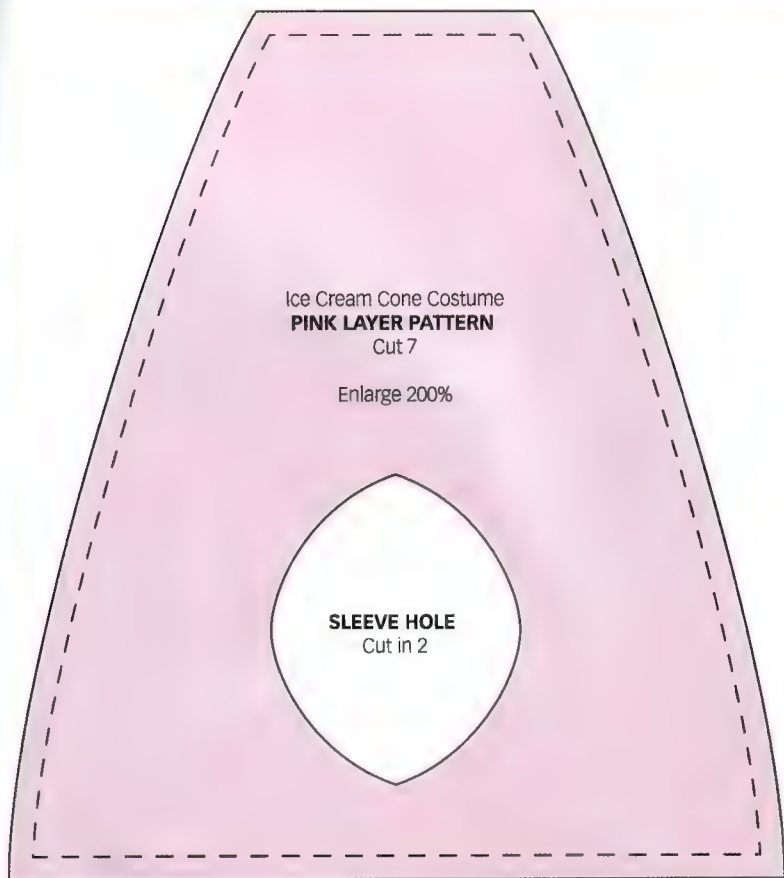
Using the patterns, cut out the toppings from brown, red, and yellow felt. Hand-sew all the scoops together, attaching the toppings between the scoop layers. Insert the pink sweatshirt into the top of the pink scoop, pulling the sweatshirt arms through the sleeve holes. Stuff the scoops with polyester fiberfill through the sleeve holes. Hot-glue pom-poms around the neckline.

Cover the headband with pink felt. Cut out a 3½-inch diameter circle

from thin cardboard, cover it with white felt, and hot-glue it slightly off-center on the headband. Using a long running stitch and matching thread, gather the white satin ribbon and glue it around the edges of the cardboard. Add several layers of gathered ribbon to resemble whipped cream. Using the pattern, cut out the cherry pieces from red felt and sew the pieces together to make a ball. Cut four leaves from green felt and topstitch the pieces together in pairs around the outer edges and through the centers. Using the patterns, cut the stem pieces from brown felt. Topstitch the pieces together and slip it over a 6-inch long piece of wire. Poke the wire end into the center of the cherry for a stem. Hand-sew the leaves to the top of the cherry. Hot-glue the cherry to the center of the cardboard.

DESIGNED BY CARRIE NAUMANN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ADAM ALBRIGHT







spirited gatherings

Even before Halloween revelers can ring your doorbell, meet them head-on by throwing a party in your yard. Easy-to-make decorations, homemade treats, and traditional party games will have neighbors, young and old, howling with delight.



These Halloween decorations, assembled from store-bought and household items, are easy to make and look great. Let trick-or-treaters grab a scoop of candy from the buckets on the table.

Candlelight is perfect for illuminating the treat table while still leaving the yard dark enough for frightfully fun activities.



To make this eerie tablecloth, *above*, simply cut a bolt of fabric with a filigree Halloween pattern to fit your table. Lay the fabric over an inexpensive white plastic tablecloth. To make the garland, print your favorite Halloween clip art onto cardstock. Cut out the images, punch holes as needed, and string them together with orange ribbon.

A shadowy glow burns softly behind premade Halloween silhouettes, *right*. Start with glass hurricane lamps and attach a variety of black die-cut figures to the outside of each lamp with double-stick tape. Place orange vellum paper over the cutouts and secure the edges with vellum tape, which becomes invisible when the lanterns are lit.





Dress up plain galvanized buckets by using spray adhesive to attach Halloween-theme paper napkins around the outside, *left*. (Make sure you scrub the buckets clean inside and out first.) Buy black bat die cuts at a crafts store and tape them to the handles; then fill the buckets with treats.

Finger-lickin'-good apples covered in caramel, chocolate, and nuts are neatly arranged on a cake plate and ready for munching, *below*. Decorate the plate by using double-stick tape to attach wide black ribbon to the rim. Then insert orange rickrack inside the ribbon.



fun and games

Try a few of these old-fashioned party favorites of all ages.

- 🎃 **PUMPKIN BOWLING** Roll small pumpkins across the lawn at 10 empty 2-liter plastic bottles painted orange and black. Have extra pumpkins handy!
- 🎃 **GUESS THE GHOST** One person covers his eyes while a sheet is draped over one of the party guests. Other players trade positions in the yard in an attempt to confuse the guesser, who will open his eyes and try to figure out who is under the sheet.
- 🎃 **BOBBING FOR APPLES** Fill a tub with water and float apples in it. The players dip their heads into the tub to try to grab an apple using only their mouths.
- 🎃 **MUMMY-WRAP RACE** Each two-player team receives one roll of toilet paper. At a given signal, one team member wraps the

other team member like a mummy. The first team to reach the end of the roll wins.

- 🎃 **PASS THE PUMPKIN** This game is like musical chairs, except the players sit in a circle and pass a small pumpkin around as music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the pumpkin is out. Keep playing until just one person is left.

- 🎃 **GHOST IN THE GRAVEYARD** Start by choosing a "base" (a cardboard tombstone?). One player—the ghost—stays at the base and counts to 50 while the other players run away. When finished counting, the ghost leaves the base to chase the other players. The first player tagged before he can reach the base is the ghost for the next round.

THE DEAD & BREAKFAST INN

Where can a ghoul go to rest her tired bones?

At a "dead and breakfast," of course, where the guests expired long before their welcome ever did.

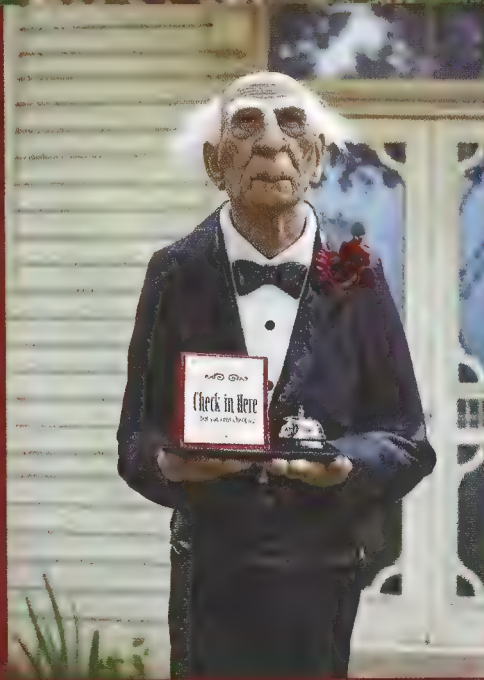
Here's how—with a little ingenuity—you can transform your front yard into an enchanted ever-after.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY KATHY BARNES PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMERON SADEGHPOUR

Final Resting Place

This old soul has been waiting a frighteningly long time for room service. Create a comfy spot for spirits to relax using secondhand odds and ends arranged to look like a hotel bedroom suite.





Turndown Service

Make this boo-doir, *above*, by pounding a rusty iron head- and footboard into the ground. Tea stain gives a centuries-old look to a pair of plain white pillowcases. For the words, write on the cases with a permanent marker.

Guest Arrival

A bony bride and her drawn husband, *far left*, plan to spend a very long honeymoon here.

Check-In Time

Position your concierge (a Halloween-store mannequin), *left*, near the front door to greet guests. He warns of a quiet stay: There are no activities planned, and once you check in, you'll never leave. For information on the download check-in card, see *left*.





Miller's
**DEAD &
BREAKFAST**
Inn

Est. 2010

vacancy

Haunted Hotel

There's always room for more ghoulish guests. A cast-off post gets a new life when paired with a DIY sign. Be sure your welcome sign reads "vacancy" so trick-or-treaters will know they can approach. Find instructions and a pattern for this project on page 70.

Sit a Spell

Black spray paint brings together a mishmash of inexpensive tableware, including silverware, plates, and candlesticks. Find bridal attire—already an ideal shade of ghostly white—for a few dollars at a thrift store.



CRAFT A CREEPY BED WHERE A LEVITATING SKELETON CAN SLEEP LIKE THE DEAD.



Rest in Peace

Assemble this bed, *above*, by screwing a cleat into the head- and footboard of a cast-off bed. The cleat creates a ledge for a sheet of clear acrylic—the perfect resting place for a levitating skeleton.

Dead Tired

Puns and wordplay on salvage board signs, *right*, take the edge off the scare factor. Find instructions and patterns on *page 70*.

A Simple Promise

For this couple, the honeymoon phase may never end. Give wedding vows a whole new meaning with a timeless wish painted on a weathered wood sign, *far right*. Use the pattern on *page 71*.





Inn Signboard

MATERIALS

1x8" boards
1x2" backing boards
Six 1/2-inch wood screws
Latex paint: gray, dark brown, and white
Two 2-inch-wide paintbrushes
Tracing paper and pencil
Graphite transfer paper
Artist's liner brush
Acrylic crafts paint: black
Eye hooks and chain
Vintage free-standing sign post

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut sign pieces, two backing boards, and vacancy sign to size, referring to patterns. Assemble sign by screwing backing boards to back of sign pieces.

Mix a 1:1 solution of water and gray or dark brown latex paint to create a color wash. Dip brush into the wash,

wiping off the excess. Drag the brush lightly across the wood surface to give it an aged look. (Let texture of the wood show.) Allow it to dry for 5 minutes. Pick up scant amount of white paint on second brush. Dry-brush white paint on areas where you want the color to be the lightest; let dry. Repeat with dark brown around the edges of the boards; let dry.

Print out the downloadable patterns and trace the designs onto tracing paper. Transfer patterns using graphite transfer paper. Use a pencil to darken the graphite lines if necessary.

Use a liner brush and black acrylic paint to paint the lettering onto the boards. Let the paint dry.

Insert eye hooks and attach chains for hanging. Hang from sign post.

Small Signs

MATERIALS

Aged barn boards
Latex paint: gray, dark brown, and white
Two 2-inch-wide paintbrushes
Tracing paper and pencil
Graphite transfer paper
Artist's liner brush
Acrylic crafts paint: black
Barbed wire, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

Gather miscellaneous pieces of aged board and cut to size, referring to the patterns. Drill hanging holes if desired.

Referring to the Inn Signboard instructions, left, transfer the patterns, paint, and hang the signs on barbed wire or eye hooks.



Until Death Do Us Part

48"

21"

Miller's

**DEAD &
BREAKFAST**

Inn

Est. 2010

vacancy

18½"

DO NOT DISTURB

Sleeping
Like the
DEAD

11"

7½"

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright green button-down shirt, is smiling and leaning out of a dark wooden door. The door is set in a white-painted wooden frame. Above the door is a large, bright orange, ribbed balloon. On either side of the door, there are decorative arrangements of pumpkins and gourds hanging from thin sticks, with small potted plants at the base. The house's exterior walls are covered in light-colored shingles. In the foreground, there are more pumpkins on the steps and green bushes on the sides.

IN THE SPIRIT

**Jeanne Carmack is a wizard of
Halloween surprises as she stirs up
fun in her California cottage.**

WRITTEN BY BEVERLY RIVERS PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL GARLAND

working magic

Jeanne Carmack found her big paper lantern, *left*, at a swap meet and spray-painted it orange. She tied smaller lanterns to bamboo stakes and put them in planters.

clever confections

Jeanne buys plain cookies and embellishes them with colored fondant. She wraps cupcakes in folded brown parchment liners.







THE CARMACK FAMILY'S HOME in Newport

Beach, California, is a comfy mix of cottage meets beach, but Jeanne's well-stocked crafts room is all about paint, paper, glue, and glitz. For this year's Halloween capers she picked a palette of lime green, orange, and white. Her style blends vintage treasures and unusual online finds with her own handmade accents—many of which are edible!

The dining room is her staging area for lighthearted fare. Jeanne shops for sweets by color to fill her glass containers. She adds her own cool confectioneries, decorating purchased cookies and cupcakes with fondant stripes and circles.

Over the table, she suspends a cluster of paper spheres found at a party-supply shop with her



died to perfection

For her dining room, *far left*, Jeanne used cold-water dye to color printmaker's paper. Once it dried, she cut it into strips to make garlands.

three-dog night!

Family dachshund Sophie, *above*, watches over the vintage "wiener dog" that holds condiments for the hot dog entrée. No question about it, Sophie is top dog.

puttin' on the glitz

Creativity reigns supreme in the Carmack house. After freehand drawing scrolls on a pumpkin with crafts glue, Jeanne coats the designs with glass glitter, *left*.



Bring nature indoors with the simple and classic fall decorations at BHG.com/falldecorations.

nuts for halloween

Various natural wreaths, *left*, hang over the fireplace. For the third wreath in her trio, Jeanne glued peanuts to a straw base.

spook-tacular service

With a blackboard backsplash, *below*, Jeanne creates messages and menus. (Note the little pumpkin faces decoupaged to her plant pot.)

festive reflections

By using acrylic paint, Jeanne can brush a holiday greeting directly on her entry mirror. When the season is over, she simply scrapes it off.



colorful handmade garlands. For pedestals, Jeanne attaches plywood squares to old balustrades and then paints them white. She pleats and sews crepe-paper bands for the edges.

A trip to the farmer's market for fresh pumpkins becomes a creative adventure for the Carmacks. Jeanne culls the harvest for various sizes and shapes to stack by her black front door and against the living room fireplace.

Nature provides myriad tools for Jeanne's designs. Look closely at the third wreath over the mantel, and you'll see it's covered in unshelled peanuts. Even the wooden signs on top of the mantel are made from natural driftwood. An urn filled with wheat shafts nods to her Norwegian heritage, and an unlikely row of gourds directs overnight guests upstairs.

In the entry, Jeanne uses acrylic crafts paint to add "Happy Halloween" to the mirror. In the wicker planter, she fills little burlap bags with the unusual candies she finds online.



With decorations up, treats readied in the entry, and a big pot of chili on the kitchen stove (soup toppings are in the carved-out pumpkins), the Carmacks are indeed "cooking up a witches' brew" and a whole lot of fun for family and friends.

Happy
Halloween



WELCOME ALL SPIRITS

Welcome to a haunting night
of "groan-up" thrills and chills,
where ghostly figures haunt the halls
and dead men do tell tales.

PRODUCED AND WRITTEN BY DEBRA WITTRUP PAPER PROJECTS BY BRANDY FAULKNER
FOOD STYLED BY JENNIFER PETERSON PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG SCHEIDEMANN



Melancholy Mansion

Rising to heights of elegance, twin pumpkin towers, opposite, flank the front door. Lace-wrapped pumpkins ascend from lightweight urns sprayed with gray stone paint. Pleats of lace border each urn, and a black bow decorates the base.

Inviting Omens

Summon the supernatural with an invitation, above, crafted from distressed and ink-stained cardstock. The agitated apparition foreshadows a hair-raising celebration. For instructions and downloads, see page 87.



Withered
Zombie

Vengeful
Vodka



Abandon hope all ye who enter.

Cross the threshold into another dimension where elegance and a spine-tingling atmosphere set the stage for a night of good food, friends, and fun.

For our ill-omened wake, we set the scene with tarnished family silver, yards of black and gray lace, and moody photographs. Spectral visitors emerge behind floral center pieces marked with the pains of time. If your day-to-day furnishings are too cheerful for such a frightful scene, drape them with tea-stained sheets and hang tattered cheesecloth at the windows. Use candlelight to create lots of dark corners.

Liven up your celebration with a food and refreshment presentation that suggests a mausoleum or crypt. Add to the funereal ambience with a crystal ball for predicting the future. Then be prepared: If you set a spirited scene, you may find a few spirits will visit.



Spirits of the Dearly Departed

Invite your guests to imbibe if they dare. Fashion frightful labels, opposite, for your potent cocktails with freaky fonts on distressed paper. Stamp a cocktail napkin with skeleton spooks and spray lightly with walnut ink for a weathered finish. Use an old frame, sprayed with ivory crackle paint, with elegant lace to fashion a stylish tray for your "shock-tail" hour.

Ghostly Greeting

Compose an entry table, above, that sets the tone for the evening ahead. Futures are forecast with a large crystal ball, while the morbid menu is heralded on a printed game card, complete with a checkoff list.

Macabre Menu

Consume at your own risk, left. This guessing game invites guests to match each creepy culinary creation with one of the entries on the printed menu. Dried gallstones, anyone?





Digestible Digits

Seasoned toes, *left*, are the ultimate finger food. OK, so maybe white asparagus "fingers" are the ultimate finger food, but both make excellent sauce dippers. A plate of icky sausage intestines oozes nearby.

Remains of the Day

Served in a coffin on antique china and tarnished silver, this sinister smorgasbord, *below left*, is full of appetizing anatomical edibles. Our menu comprises tasty dishes that allude to body parts with appropriately gruesome names. Hand the printed bills of fare to your guests and watch them approach with trepidation.

Soul Food

The brains of the operation, *below*, made of molded (not moldy) shrimp, are displayed on an elevated silver tray, while a standing rib roast looms invitingly in the background.



Grave Message

Put your sentiments on the coffin front and center with nailhead trim. But does it stand for Rest In Peace or Repast In Progress? For coffin instructions, see page 89.





Ominous Scene

Set the stage, above, for your ghoulish get-together with bookcases filled with ethereal ephemera. Clocks tick relentlessly toward midnight, and spirited photos fill the frames.

Dead Head

A phantom presence, below left, clearly up to no good, emerges from the underworld and into the back of the bookcase. To make this tormented soul, see instructions on page 88.

Lights in the Night

Cast an eerie (and safe) glow, below, with battery-operated candles. Wrap the candles with aged book pages or newspaper, and group them on a silver tray for an otherworldly glimmer.





Serviettes

MATERIALS

Cocktail napkins
Skeleton stamp
Scroll design stamp
Black ink pad (we used StazOn)
Walnut ink

INSTRUCTIONS

Cover work surface with newspapers. Insert a cardboard scrap into a napkin fold. Stamp the skeleton images and the scroll design onto the napkin using black ink. Lightly spray walnut ink. Let dry thoroughly. Repeat for remaining napkins.

Invitation

MATERIALS

Cardstock (We used 110 cream.)
Walnut ink
Fine-grit sandpaper
Distress Ink in Brushed Corduroy
Ink blending tool (We used Inkssential.)
Skeleton stamp
Black ink (We used StazOn.)
Adhesive-foam dots

INSTRUCTIONS

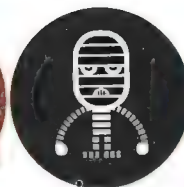
Hang the cardstock on a line and spray with the walnut ink. (Make sure the area around your cardstock is protected from any overspray.) Let dry. Dip a toothbrush into the bottle of ink and fleck more spots randomly onto the cardstock. Let dry.

Using the sandpaper, rub along the edges of the cardstock to give it a worn look. Lightly ink a blending tool with

Distress Ink. Using circular motions, blend ink onto the cardstock.

Download invitation and crystal ball templates at BHG.com/halloweenricks. Test layout by printing both sides on plain paper. When you are satisfied with the positioning, print the text, frame, and crystal ball onto both sides of the cardstock. Fold in half lengthwise. Write or print the details of your party on the inside of the invitation.

Print the crystal ball template onto distressed paper and cut it out with scissors. Ink the skeleton stamp with black ink and press onto the crystal ball. Add Distress Ink around the edges of the ball with the blending tool. Attach adhesive-foam dots to the back of the cutouts and adhere to the front of the invitation over the printed crystal ball.



Evening Dining

INSTRUCTIONS

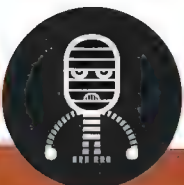
Print out the dining menu, and distress it following the invitation instructions below. Adhere it to a backing paper for stability.

1. French Bread Heels
2. Herbed Bread Sticks
3. Kidney Bean Salad
4. Macaroni Salad
5. White Asparagus Spears
6. Marinated Mozzarella
7. Shrimp Aspic
8. Raspberry Brie
9. Barbecue Sausages
10. Standing Rib Roast
11. French Dip Sandwiches
12. Glazed Sweet Breads
13. Chocolate Candies
14. Jelly Belly Candies
15. Ladyfingers Dessert

For the download and recipes, go to BHG.com/spirits.



More at BHG.com/spirits



Spirit Panel

MATERIALS

2x3-foot birch 1/2-inch plywood panel
Plastic mask
Manicure practice hand
Crafts glue
Celluclay papier-mâché
Spreader
Sandpaper
Latex paint

INSTRUCTIONS

Measure bookshelf space and cut a plywood panel to size with a saw. Remove the back of the hand with a bread knife.

Place mask and hand on the panel and glue in place, *top left*.

Mix papier-mâché mix following the manufacturer's instructions.

With moist hands, add papier-mâché to the panel, *center left*. Spread the mixture, smoothing with the spreader. If your mask has open eye sockets, lay a damp piece of paper toweling over the openings and smooth the edges. Allow the papier-mâché to dry slightly on the fingers before covering completely. When all the components are covered, let dry.

Save leftover mixture in an airtight bag for a light skim coat, if necessary for a smooth finish. After all coats are dry, sand any rough edges or areas with sandpaper. Paint the panel to match your bookcase, *bottom left*. Let dry and slide into place.

Pretty Pretty Pumpkins

MATERIALS

Pumpkins of any size
(We used Funkins.)
Lace fabric: black
Needle and thread

INSTRUCTIONS

Lay the lace fabric over the pumpkin, gathering it at the bottom with your hand, to determine the location for the stem opening. Remove the lace. Cut a small circle with scissors and lay the lace over the pumpkin, inserting the stem through the opening. Gather the lace at the pumpkin bottom, trimming the excess lace, and secure the lace in place using running stitches in a wheel-spoke pattern.



R.I.P. Coffin

MATERIALS

Two 4x8-foot sheets of 1/2-inch plywood
8 yards of black felt
Rotary cutting tool
Finish nails
Glue
Staple gun and 1/2-inch staples
White chalk
2 rolls of nickel nailhead trim
Acrylic crafts paint: black
Stencil brush

INSTRUCTIONS

Using a pencil, tape measure, and straightedge, measure and mark all pieces for the coffin on the plywood sheets. Cut out with the circular saw. Cut 1-inch wood cleats from the wood scraps.

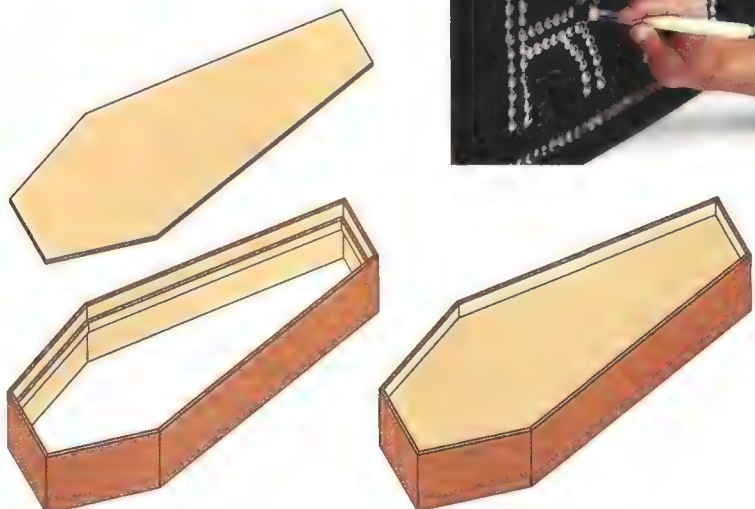
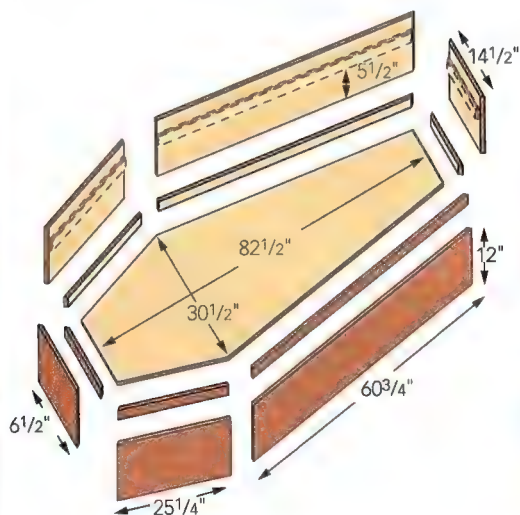
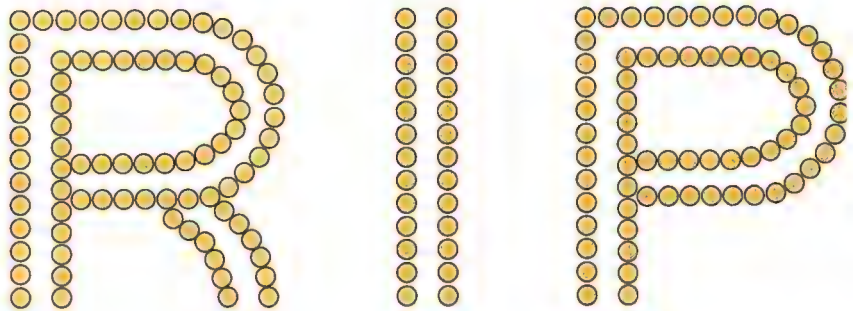
Lay the bottom piece of the coffin on the black felt, and using a rotary cutting tool, cut the felt along the outline of the bottom.

Assemble the coffin. Nail 1-inch wood cleats to the inner sides of the coffin at the height you want the bottom to rest. Glue the side panels at the corners and secure with nails. Insert the bottom piece on top of the cleats and secure with glue and nails.

Roll the remainder of the felt yardage along the sides of the coffin. Starting at a corner and smoothing with your hands as you go, staple the

felt to the inside bottom edges of the coffin and the underneath outside. Leaving 2" fabric on the edges, cut off remaining fabric from the bottom and inside. Take the bottom felt shape and lay it in the coffin. Glue the felt to the inside bottom. Attach nailhead trim along the top and bottom outside edges of the coffin. Add a vertical strip of trim about 1 1/2 inches from both sides of each corner.

To add R.I.P., print out the download pattern. Rub chalk on the backside. Lay the pattern in place and go over the pattern lines with a pencil. Remove the pattern; pound nailheads in place on the pattern lines, referring to the placement diagram, above. Brush off excess chalk dust. Squirt a small dot of black crafts paint onto a paper plate or paper towel. Dab a dry stencil brush into the paint and brush the excess onto the plate. Stipple black paint onto nailhead trim for an aged patina. Wipe off excess; let dry.

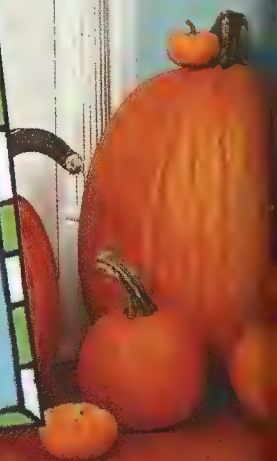


Here's how to throw a
not-so-spooky shindig
featuring gentle giants,
a beastie-bits buffet, and
flights-of-fancy amusements
designed to please your
favorite little ones.



monster madness

DESIGNED BY CARRIE NAUMAN WRITTEN BY ANN WILSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY WILDE
CUPCAKES AND POPS PROVIDED BY WILTON ENTERPRISES





Banner Day

Suspend spirited signage, balloons or cutouts to highlight your friendly-fiend theme and pepped-up color scheme. Tuck quirky paper critters behind glass cabinet doors or hang them on walls for "pin the horns on a monster" competitions.

Traditional Halloween parties, packed with gruesome displays of ghouls and goblins, can be way too scary for tiny tykes. So we devised a kinder, gentler party plan for preschoolers that substitutes fanciful monster figures for more fearsome forms and employs cheerful chromes in place of horror-inducing hues.

A perky palette of bright lime, aqua, pink, and sherbet orange and playful patterns create an upbeat atmosphere and bright-and-breezy backdrops. The energetic scheme pops up again and again; invitations, grinning monsters, party games, take-home favors, and ogre-inspired edibles spill over with lighthearted attitude, comical character, and a few trick-or-treat surprises.

Follow our lead (or adapt our ideas to suit your entertaining needs) and build a fun-filled and very-festive afternoon around making-nice monster motifs. We supply you with the templates, patterns, and downloadable projects—plus the inspiration and instructions—you'll need to stage a monstrously pleasing Halloween gathering that instills smiles over screams.





Who's Scaring Whom?

Craft amiably expressive monsters, *opposite top*, using polka-dot gift-wrap bodies, dimensional facial features cut from complementary papers, and computer-printed speech bubbles.

Masked Marauders

Put imaginations into play. Supply kids with a pile of handmade puzzle pieces, *above*, and watch as they puzzle the pieces into instant disguises.

Puzzle Me This

Keep little hands busy with impishly imaged puzzles, *right*, crafted from downloadable monster portraits and balsa wood. Make a puzzle for every guest to carry home as a playtime keepsake.

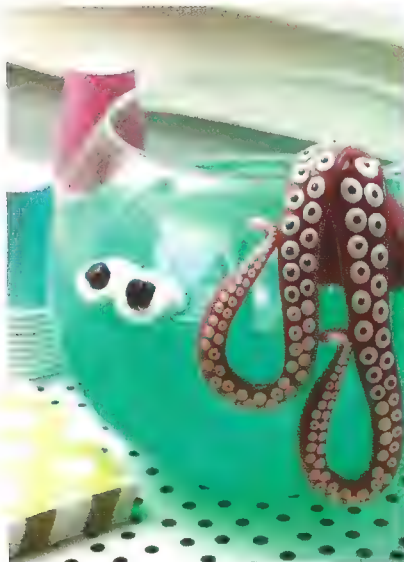
Request Their Presence

Preview monstrous pleasures and ensure maximum attendance by sending out theme invites, *opposite, far left*, two weeks ahead of the big day.

Interactive Invite

Attach a "me need fun!" bubble, *opposite left*, with a brad so that each invitee can swing it around to reveal the party-day essentials printed beneath.





Uncanny Eats

Gratifyingly gross, renamed candies and crudités, *above middle*, tempt tots' taste buds. Print adhesive labels; add made-up monikers, such as scales (jelly beans), fangs (candy corn), tentacles (pickle slices), and monster bones (carrot sticks); and adhere to serving pieces.



Deep-Blue-Sea Drink

Fill a large clear-glass fishbowl, *above left*, with blue Gatorade and add a gummy octopus with its tentacles trailing over the side. Float "looking at you" candy-dotted marshmallow eyeballs atop the aqua sea.

Cyclops on Sticks

Parade edible brownie pops—created using molds and decorated with icing, fondant, marshmallow, and licorice-strip details—across a tabletop, *top left and above*. Display the kooky confections in rickrack-trimmed vases filled with plastic foam, marbles, and colorful blooms.

Fetching Finale

Pile a tiered cake tray with funny-face cupcakes to fashion an appealing anchor for your good-eats' tabletop. Use brightly colored icings and fondants and store-bought candies to turn plain-Jane baked goods into sure-to-delight desserts.



Personality-Plus Pictures

Print the coloring template on 11×17-inch paper. Encourage marker-wielding artists to fill in the lines with creative color combos. Dress your creation and serving stations with easy-clean toppers cut from inexpensive oilcloth.





Magnetize Mementos

Capture every monster-in-the-making moment with a digital camera. Print out images and insert them into preprinted magnetic frames, *below*, that guests can take home to post on their refrigerators as party-day souvenirs.



Great Pretenders

What kid doesn't love to act like a monster? Improvisational impersonators, *above and right*, can do just that—again and again—when you supply them with a pint-size platform and face-framing beastie-boy and girl silhouettes.



More at BHG.com/monster



Monster Bash Banner

MATERIALS

Solid and patterned papers
Crafts adhesive
Chipboard letters
Paper hole punch
Grommets, 2 for each pennant
Ribbon

INSTRUCTIONS

On complementary scrapbook papers, draw 5×7-inch triangles and circles. (Use a jar lid or glass as a template for the circles.) Cut out shapes. Make extras of each in case more pennants are needed for spacing or to stretch the banner's length. Adhere contrasting circles to pennants, and glue chipboard letters atop circles. In the triangles' upper corners, punch holes to hold the grommets. Add the grommets. Cut a length of ribbon and string it through the grommets to hang the banner.

Magnetic Mementos

MATERIALS

Frame image, downloaded
Computer and printer
Magnetic printer paper
Digital camera
Photo or printer paper
Clasp envelopes

INSTRUCTIONS

Print picture-frame template in color onto sheets of magnetic printer paper; cut along scalloped edges and cut out frames' centers. Write guests' names in label areas on frames. Print digital images onto photo or printer paper. (We used an Epson PictureMate printer, which speeded up the process.) For each guest, place the image behind the frame and insert both pieces in a carry-home envelope.



Imp-Image Invitations

MATERIALS

Invitation and monster patterns, downloaded
Scrapbook papers
Computer and printer
Black permanent marker
Adhesive dots
Scrapbooking brads
Envelopes

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut invitations from solid-color scrapbook paper. (Before you cut, make sure invitations are properly sized to fit your mailing envelopes.) Print "me need fun" speech bubbles and "come to my monster bash" panels on white paper. Cut out.

Trace around reduced-in-size monster templates or draw monsters freehand onto scrapbook or wrapping paper. Outline areas and details with black marker. Cut out figures and use adhesive dots to adhere them to the invitations.

Adhere a "come to my monster bash" bubble to each invitation with adhesive dots, and write in the party details. Place "me need fun" bubble the over copy and attach it with a brad so the panel can swing up to reveal what, when, and where.

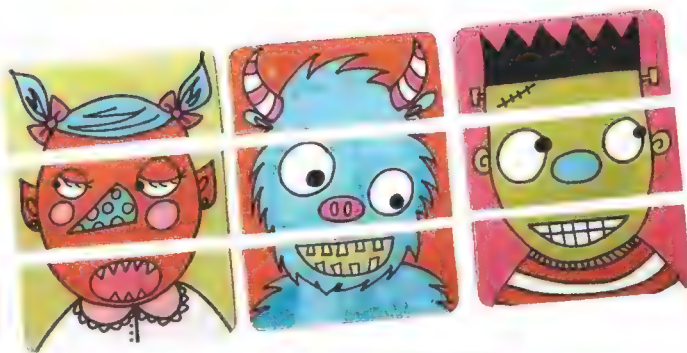
photo-op figures

MATERIALS

Monster patterns, downloaded
Foam-core panels
Acrylic paints
Paintbrushes
Black permanent marker
Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
Crafts knife

INSTRUCTIONS

Print monster-body templates to your desired size. Trace all patterns onto panels with pencil. With complementary-hued acrylic paints, fill in all silhouettes. Let dry. Outline painted areas and details with black marker. Use a crafts knife to cut out torsos, accessories, and body parts; cut away mouth areas to accommodate posing kids' faces. Hot-glue body parts and accessories to torsos. Hot-glue a foam-core triangle to lower area of figures to keep monsters standing.



take-home puzzlers

MATERIALS

Monster images, downloaded
Computer and color printer
Balsa wood
Crafts knife
Acrylic paints
Paintbrushes
Decoupage medium

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the supplied image onto printer paper. Cut out the image and use as a pattern to cut balsa wood shape. Cut the balsa wood and the printed image each into three panels, as shown on the downloadable pattern. Paint all surfaces of the balsa wood a color that coordinates with the image. Let dry. Adhere and seal images to corresponding balsa wood pieces with decoupage medium.





"We've Got Our Eyes on You" Brownie Pops

MATERIALS

Silicone brownie mold
(We used Wilton Brownie Pops Silicone Mold.)
Brownie mix
Buttercream icing
White fondant
Icing colors: orange, rose, and black
Icing decorator tips: sizes 1A, 1M, 1, 2, 8, and 12
Disposable frosting decorating bags
Frosting brush
Piping gel
White sparkles
8-inch lollipop sticks

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Our instructions are for the pink and orange brownie pops. Instructions for remaining brownie pops can be found at BHG.com/monster. Bake and cool brownies in prepared mold supported by a cookie sheet;

carefully remove from mold. Lightly ice the pops smooth with a buttercream icing.

Polka Dot Brownie: Tint fondant orange; roll out $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Cover pops in orange fondant. Roll out white and black fondant to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick; cut out white of eye with wide end of tip 1M and cut black fondant pupil from narrow end of tip 1A. Cut an orange eyelid with a knife. Attach with a water-dampened brush. Tint fondant rose; roll out $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick; cut out rose dots using both ends of tip 12. Brush all dots with piping gel and cover with sparkles. Attach dots to body with a water-dampened brush. Pipe eyelashes black with tip 2. Insert lollipop sticks.

Striped Brownie: Tint fondant rose; roll out $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Cover pops with light rose fondant. Tint fondant dark rose; roll out $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Cut three $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch stripes in dark rose. Brush with

piping gel and cover with sparkles. Attach stripes with a water-dampened brush. Cut out white eye with wide end of tip 12. Cut black fondant pupils using the narrow end of tip 8. Cut out eyelids with a knife. Attach eyes with a water-dampened brush. Pipe eyelashes black with tip 2. Insert lollipop sticks.



critters in cabinets

MATERIALS

Monster-figure patterns, downloaded
Complementary wrapping and scrapbook papers
Black permanent marker
Crafts glue
Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print templates to your desired size. Trace pattern pieces onto the back of wrapping and/or scrapbook papers. Cut out all pieces. Outline edges and add details with a black marker. Glue smaller pieces to torsos. Let dry. Tape figures to glass-pane doors, windows, or walls.



Cupcake Monsters

Note: Our instructions are for Ted and Alice cupcakes, top two cupcakes, shown right. Instructions for remaining cupcakes can be found at BHG.com/monster.

MATERIALS

Muffin pan
Cake mix
Buttercream icing
White fondant
Icing colors: orange, teal, rose, black, and leaf green
Icing decorator tips: 1A, 2, and 3
Disposable frosting decorating bags
Frosting brush
Candy spearmint leaves
Candy gumdrops: red
Granulated sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

Bake and cool cupcakes. Ice cupcakes smooth with buttercream icing, mounding up in center.

Ted Cupcake: Tint fondant orange, roll fondant $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick and cover cupcake. Tint fondant teal, and shape into ears, arms, nose, and let dry. Roll white fondant $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick and cut out teeth. Insert arms, ears, nose, and teeth. Cut out eyes using the wide end of tip 1A. Pipe pupils and eyebrows

with tip 3.

Roll spearmint leaves out on waxed paper sprinkled with sugar; cut into antler shapes with scissors dipped in sugar, and insert in place.

Alice Cupcake: To ensure that the fondant bow retains its shape, prepare and let dry for 48 hours. Tint fondant leaf green. Roll fondant $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick. Cut two strips $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4}$ inch. Fold ends toward the center and pinch ends together. Cut two strips $2 \times \frac{1}{4}$ inch and notch a "V" on each end; let strips dry. Lay folded strips on top of the notched strip. Cut a strip $\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ inch and wrap the center, flattening the ends on the back side.

Tint fondant rose. Roll fondant $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick and cover cupcake. Tint fondant black. Roll $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick; cut into a mouth shape. Attach with a water-dampened brush. Shape white fondant into eyeball shapes. Tint fondant rose and roll $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick. Cut rose eyelids with a knife and press onto the eyes. Pipe pupils and eyelashes with tip 3. Roll white fondant $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick and cut out teeth. Cut a rose uvula with a knife. Attach the bow, eyes, teeth, and uvula with a water-dampened brush. Tint fondant orange and pipe dots with tip 2.

Roll gumdrops out on waxed paper sprinkled with sugar; cut into tongue with scissors dipped in sugar, score in the center, and insert in place.





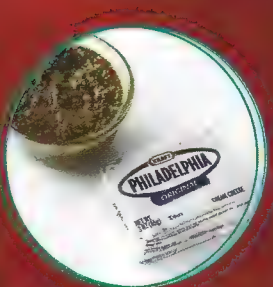
Scary Skull-y Eggs

Beware! There's danger ahead! That's what this skull and crossbones has to say to anyone who crosses its path. This spook-on-a-plate works well as a decorative centerpiece or serve it up on Halloween morning to coax giggles from the little ghosts and goblins in your household.

eerie edibles

Count on this cache of tasty kooks and

FOOD STYLED BY DIANNA NOLIN RECIPES DEVELOPED BY SHELLI MCCONNELL WRITTEN BY WINI MORANVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTY BALDWIN



spooks to bring some hair-raising (yet palate-pleasing) fun to your party.

Yummy Mummies

Mummies date from ancient times, but don't expect these good-tasting guys to stay around too long! The meatball head and summer-sausage bodies are covered in ghostly wrappings of cream cheese and fettuccine. This irresistibly savory snack on a stick provides a hearty way to feed (and fire the imagination!) of hungry partygoers.

Graveyard Gobble

Dig in, if you dare! Tombstones poke out from freshly dug graves in this beastly boneyard—and judging by the rickety fence, it looks like some specters may have escaped! Actually, it's just a crowd-pleasing taco dip in delicious disguise. Black olives stand in for the dark earth and ominous shapes cut from tortillas, either by hand or with cookie cutters, add a fright factor to the scene.





Hilarious Hoot Owl

Trick or treat? This feathery friend is both! It's a creamy, sweet-tasting treat as well as a slick trick for getting kids to eat some good-for-them fruit amidst all the Halloween candy they're likely to bring home. Get the little ones to help craft these cagey creatures, and they might even snack on some good stuff while they're at it.



Swamp Monster Screwball

With its cockeyed stare and out-of-control tongue, this mutant from murky waters serves as a colorful cuckoo container for presenting veggies. Show it off alongside a dish of your favorite dip or bottled dressing.





Terrifying Tarantulas

Spiders are scary enough, but when you use nonpareils to make the creepy crawlers into fuzzy tarantulas, you exponentially up the ante on the "eek!" factor. Make them especially menacing by using dark chocolate. Or choose more whimsical candy colors to accentuate the silly side of the holiday.





Wacky witch

What's a Halloween party without a witch—with warts and all? Fruit roll-ups form the loathsomely stringy locks of hair, while well-placed candies craft her frightful face. This ghastly grotesque girl looks bad to the bone—with an evil green sheen, both inside and out. Take one bite, however, and you'll see she's actually as sweet as an angel (an angel food cake, that is!).



Scary Skull-y Eggs

- 2 bacon slices
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg white
- Sliced pimiento

In a skillet, fry two pieces of bacon. Drain on paper towels. Cut each bacon slice in half crosswise and place in an X shape on a serving plate.

In the same skillet, fry two eggs and one egg white sunny-side up. Carefully place on top of the bacon, pulling the bacon out to form the crossbones. Decorate the face with sliced pimiento.

Yummy Mummies

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon purchased pesto sauce
- Purchased meatballs
- Purchased summer-sausage snack sticks
- Wooden skewers
- Cooked fettucine noodles
- Capers

In a small bowl, combine cream cheese and pesto sauce, set aside. Skewer a purchased meatball and a 4-inch piece of summer-sausage snack stick with a 6-inch wooden skewer. Spread some of the mixture over the skewer, and wrap with cooked fettucine.

For a bulky body, spread with additional cream cheese mixture and wrap with another layer of cooked fettucine. Add capers for eyes.

Graveyard Gobble

- 1 16-ounce can refried beans with green chiles
- ¼ cup bottled salsa
- ⅔ cup bottled ranch salad dressing
- 2 teaspoons taco seasoning
- 1½ cups chopped cooked chicken
- 1 7-ounce pouch refrigerated guacamole
- ½ of a 2¼-ounce can chopped pitted ripe olives, drained
- Shredded lettuce

In a small bowl, combine refried beans and salsa. Spread refried bean mixture in a 2-quart rectangular dish. In a small bowl, combine ranch salad dressing and taco seasoning; stir in chicken. Spoon on top of the beans in an even layer. Spoon guacamole in small mounds on top of the chicken mixture. Carefully spread to an even layer.

Cover and chill at least 30 minutes or up to 6 hours before serving. Just before serving, place tombstone characters into dip. Sprinkle the graveyard with chopped olives and shredded lettuce. Serve with additional tortilla chips, if desired.

Tortilla Graveyard Characters: Using cookie cutters or a knife, cut 10-inch tortillas of any flavor into gravestones, cats, owls, bats, fence rails, and a tree. Bake in a 350°F oven for 5 to 7 minutes or until firm and crisp. Cool on rack.

Hoot Owl

- Bagels (various sizes and flavors)
- Cream cheese
- Desired fresh fruit or vegetables

Spread bagels with cream cheese. (Add jams or marmalades to cream cheese if desired or use purchased mini cheese pizza bagels for savory bagels.) Design owls using fresh sliced or cut-up fruits, dry fruits, nuts, cheese, olive slices, and pepperoni slices.

Swamp Monster

- Green peppers
- Toothpicks
- Desired cut cup vegetables
- Carrot
- Pimiento-stuffed green olives
- Salad dressing (optional)

Remove the top of a green pepper and set aside. Remove all seeds and membrane. Cut out leg shapes from another green pepper and attach to green pepper with toothpicks. Fill

with your favorite vegetables. Add a long slice of carrot for a tongue. Using toothpicks, place two large pimiento-stuffed green olives on top of the pepper lid for eyes. If desired, serve with a favorite salad dressing.

Temifying Tarantulas

- Chocolate candy coating or candy discs
- 1-inch candy truffles (optional)
- Orange nonpareils (optional)
- Orange candy confetti
- Red frosting

Melt desired flavored candy coating or candy discs. Place in a resealable plastic bag. Snip off a small corner. Pipe spider legs of various sizes onto a waxed paper-lined baking sheet. If desired, sprinkle with nonpareils while wet. Chill in the refrigerator until firm.

Squeeze a bit of melted coating onto another waxed paper-lined sheet and insert spider legs. If desired, add a candy truffle for the spider body.

Add small confetti candies or frosting for eyes. Chill in refrigerator until firm.

Wacky Witch

- 2 angel food cake mixes
- Green food coloring
- Purchased white frosting
- Assorted candies

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Tint batter with green food coloring. Pour into two tube pans and bake according to package directions. Cool completely. Tint frosting green and apply to the cake bottoms. Assemble the cake by stacking the cakes with the bottoms together. Frost the sides. Add assorted candies for the eyes, using frosting as adhesive. Press on candy warts, a candy peanut nose, and licorice eyebrows and mouth. Add fruit strips for hair and top with a hat.

Halloween Kids' Carnival

Hurry, hurry, hurry! Step right up for a Halloween party that's high on fun and frolic and low on cost and time!

PRODUCED BY MATTHEW MEAD
WRITTEN BY DEBRA WITTRUP
PHOTOGRAPHED BY REED DAVIS





Glass Gourd

Come one, come all. A grinning jack-o'-lantern greets your guests at the treats table, *opposite*. Give a glass bowl some chops with face shapes cut from black electrical tape.

Grab a Tall One

That's right, boys and girls, get your wonder drink right here. Bottles of orange soda become pumpkin juice with the addition of your own imprint, *above left*. Just cover existing logos with printed labels, add some jaunty ribbon, and it's a wrap!

Tin Pail Alley

Gather 'round, gather 'round! This is what you've been waiting for! Metal pails in orange and black hold jelly beans and suckers, *above right*, creating easy prizes for your game players. Decorate the pails with spooky stickers or starbursts. Then send the kids to your midway to try their luck.

After the summer amusement parks and state fair midways have closed, what's a kid to do? Have a pumpkin carnival, of course! With a few materials, the simplest of crafting skills, and the glib chatter of a carnival barker, you can rustle up a multitude of fun games of skill and chance. Devise a points system for each game to crown a carnival king or queen at the end of the day, but have prizes on hand for everyone. To create all the projects you see here, use our downloadable versions at BHG.com/halloweencarnival. You'll need festival food to go along with all the activity. Cakes, caramel corn, candy, and cookies make sweet additions to your pumpkin theme and conjure up the atmosphere of a carnival midway. You're not going to believe your eyes!

FILL YOUR HARVEST
CARNIVAL WITH SWEET
TREATS KIDS WILL LOVE!



Corny Cones

Right before your very eyes, plain white paper drinking cones become funnels of fun. Decorate cones, *above*, with black jack-o'-lantern faces and strips of patterned paper or ribbon. Fill them with caramel corn for a sweet old-time treat.

Cute Cookies

Step right up to something delicious. Cut pumpkin shapes, *left*, from rolled sugar cookie dough you buy or prepare according to your favorite recipe. Bake as directed, and ice the cookies with orange royal icing. Add face shapes with black icing and stems with green icing.



More at BHG.com/halloweencarnival



Take the Cake

Now showing for the first time: an amazing jack-o'-lantern cake! Frost a chocolate layer cake with orange icing. Put more of the icing in a cake decorating bag fitted with a #1 or #2 tip to pipe jack-o'-lantern faces on chocolate wafer cookies. Stand the cookies around the cake and embed a half dozen in the top.



Counter Points

That's right, kids—lots to see and it's all free! Start your arcade with a guessing game. Fill a punch bowl with candy corn, *above right*, keeping count of the pieces. Print and download our sign and attach it with glue to a black paint stick. Ask the kids to write their guesses and names on slips of paper. Then award points for the closest guesses.

Drop in the Bucket

Our one-of-a-kind show continues with a game of skill. An orange-painted pail, *above left*, gets a jack-o'-lantern face of black tape, while an old bell sports a ghostly guise. Let the kids try tossing a ball into the pail. Award points and ring the bell for a successful try.

Toss Up

Ask the kids to prove their dexterity! Download and print our patterns. Cut printed papers to fit around the cans, *right*, securing them with glue. Arrange the cans on a tiered shelf with points designated for each shelf. Provide the kids with small plastic balls to toss into the cans.





Shell Game

Now you see it, now you don't. Paint three mini wooden pails from a craft store, *above*, with thinned white paint. Cut triangle-shape eyes from black electrical tape and adhere them to the pails. For the game, hide a piece of candy under one of the pails. Slide all three of them around and then ask the kids to guess where the candy is hiding. Award points and the candy for a correct answer.



In the Bag

Make game pieces any carry would be proud of! Add a jazzy face to a tray with shapes cut from black tape, *left*. Sew a seam around pairs of 3x4-inch rectangles of fabric with right sides together, leaving small openings in each. Turn the bags right sides out, fill with dry beans, and sew the openings closed.

Hit the Spot

You've got to see it to believe it! Create a large graphic from vintage Halloween clip art enlarged and printed at a copy center, *above*. With scissors, cut a hole in an appropriate area. Then award prizes, for the kids with the most bags, that hit the spot!

creative carving basics

Follow our tips and techniques to make your next jack-o'-lanterns the stars of your neighborhood.



Prepare the Pumpkin

Draw the lid outline on top of a room-temperature pumpkin, or draw a circle on the pumpkin bottom. Cut along the lines using a keyhole saw. The long blade is best for cutting through the thick pumpkin rind. Clean out the seeds and pulp using a large spoon. Scrape the inside of the pumpkin with clay-modeling tools until the walls are about 1 inch thick.



Transfer the Design

Enlarge or decrease the pattern to fit your pumpkin. Tape or pin the pattern to the pumpkin; transfer the pattern using a tracing wheel (found at fabrics stores) or poke the holes using an awl or ceramics tool. If using a poker-type tool, push the point into the pumpkin skin but not through the pumpkin wall; space the holes about 1/8 inch apart.



Cradle the pumpkin in your lap and use a crafts knife to cut out the designs. For smaller openings, use a fine-tooth saw. Grasp the saw as you would hold a pencil and cut with a continuous up-and-down motion, keeping the saw perpendicular to the pumpkin. Apply gentle pressure and work from the center out on large designs. Avoid twisting the blade as you work.



To create glowing round shapes, use a melon baller to scoop out circular areas of the pumpkin skin. Push one edge of the melon baller into the pumpkin to break the skin, and gently push the baller to scoop out the area. Repeat this process to create depressions all over the pumpkin. Place a light inside the pumpkin to make the scooped-out areas glow.



Gouge Design Lines

Wood-carving gouges are great for removing strips of skin from a pumpkin. The gouged areas will glow when light shines through them. Experiment with different gouge sizes because each will produce a different width of gouged line. Follow the lines of the pattern to carefully remove the skin and some of the pulp until the pumpkin wall is the desired thickness.

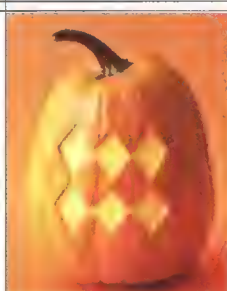


If you want large holes in your pumpkin, it isn't always practical to use a fine-tooth saw to cut out the shape. To get a perfect circle every time, an apple corer is easy and efficient to use. Push the sharp round end of the corer through the pumpkin wall. A pottery tool also can be used to pierce the pumpkin with smaller holes.



Cut Shapes with Cookie Cutters

Metal cookie cutters are good for cutting out fancy shapes without having to use a saw. Place the sharp edge of a cutter against the pumpkin, then use a hammer or rubber mallet to tap the cutter into the pumpkin skin. Continue tapping the cutter until it breaks through the pumpkin wall.



In addition to gouging fine lines, wood-carving gouges can be utilized for removing large areas of pumpkin skin. Choose the widest rounded gouge for the largest areas to be gouged, and use more narrow gouges for more intricate designs. The deeper the gouge in the pumpkin wall, the more the light will shine through.



Drill Holes

For the fastest and easiest way to make holes in a pumpkin, use a power drill. Experiment with drill bit sizes and patterns to create different effects. Interesting patterns can be created by following the ribs on the outside of the pumpkin as shown or by creating all-over patterns. The holes also are perfect for accommodating a string of lights inserted on the inside.



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SPOOKY FUN



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To order: **Call 800-678-5752 or readershopping.com.** Please specify source code SIPH when ordering.

Mummy Apron

Make Halloween extra festive with these "Mummy" and me matching aprons. These 100% cotton aprons will protect clothing while baking holiday treats as well as costumes when playing games like bobbing for apples. The adult apron measures 27x32 inches, and the children's apron is 19x25 inches.

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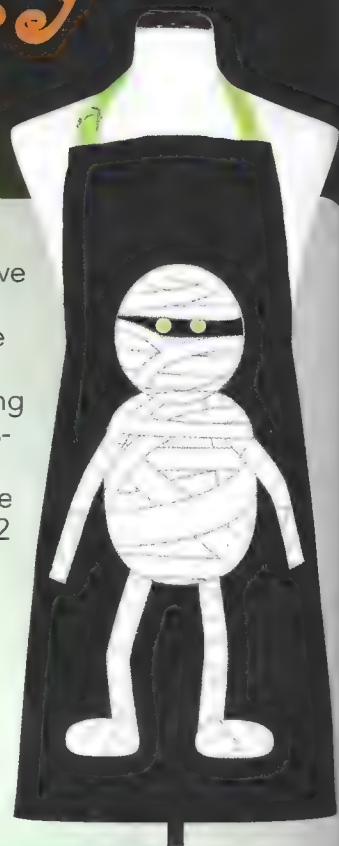
Child size #02927 \$14.99

To Order: **Call**

800-678-5752 or

readershopping.com.

Please specify source code SIPH when ordering.



Wayward Witch

Ouch! This tree-hugging witch could definitely use better directions, like the kind we give you to make this whimsical 48-inch-tall yard decoration. And with our full-size patterns you can knock out the construction and painting in an evening.

Plan# -1065 \$13.95



Wacky Witch

Sorry, but this funtime favorite probably won't scare anyone away this Halloween. Witch measures 47 inches top to bottom and can be cut to shape in less than an hour. Easy-to-follow painting instructions and full-size patterns make building this project a snap.

Plan# - 1055 \$13.95

To order these WOOD magazine project plans: **Call Garlinghouse at 800-235-7000 or readershopping.com.** Please specify item number and source code M0036 when ordering.



SOURCES

Many of the materials and items used in this magazine are available at fabrics, crafts, and department stores. For more information about the products or to find a retailer near you, contact the manufacturers below.

Jeweled Spiders

page 8

Design by Jenifer Smith;
jenifersfamilyjewels@etsy.com.
Beads: firemountaingems.com.

Shake and Rattle

page 10

Papier-mâché balls: Sav-on-crafts.com.
Acrylic paints: available at crafts stores
or plaidonline.com.

Make It Classic

page 22

Ravens, set of three antiqued bronzed
resin birds: olystudio.com. 19-inch
open-wing crow in chandelier:
grandinroad.com.

Lively Shadows

page 27

Apple Barrel Gloss Glow-In-The-Dark
green paint: available at crafts
stores or plaidonline.com. Flameless
candles: batteryoperatedcandles.net.

Puppet Party

page 34

Glitter letters: American Crafts
(available at crafts stores). Glitter glue:
Sulyn (available at crafts stores).

It's a Curious Halloween

page 40

Debbie Dusenberry, owner, Curious
Sofa; 913/432-8969; curioussofa.com.

Pumpkin Pets on Parade

page 44

Design by Matthew Meade;
matthewmeadestyleholidays.com.

The Dead & Breakfast Inn

page 64

Location: Jordan House; thejordanhouse.org. Horse: Warren Johnson. Skeletons:
egeneralmedical.com.

In the Spirit

page 72

Ribbons and papers: wheresthepartyink.com. Glass glitter and crepe paper:
castleintheair.biz. Candies: spunsugar.com.

Welcome All Spirits

page 78

Paper designer: brandywine@etsy.com.
Skeleton rubber stamp:
allthegoreydetails.com. Table base urns:
homedepot.com. Battery-operated candles:
batteryoperatedcandles.net. Location:
Salisbury House; salisburyhouse.org.

Monster Madness

page 90

Cupcake and pops: available at crafts
stores or wilton.com. Photo printer:
Epson PictureMate; epson.com.

Halloween Kids' Carnival

page 110

Design by Matthew Meade;
matthewmeadestyleholidays.com.

Indoor/Outdoor Tangled Web Panel



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eat, drink, and
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